

Djibouti urges Arab ties with Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Djibouti Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah urged Arab countries on Wednesday to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt. Mr. Farah told reporters after holding talks with President Hosni Mubarak: "I hope our Arab brothers will follow our example and restore relations with Egypt." The Red Sea state resumed diplomatic ties with Egypt, severed in 1979 after Cairo signed its separate peace treaty with Israel, late last month. All Arab countries except Sudan, Somalia and Oman broke relations with Egypt at the time. Jordan restored ties in 1984. Mr. Farah, paying a two-day visit to Egypt, said he delivered a letter to Mr. Mubarak from President Hassan Gouled dealing with Middle East problems, African issues and bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters Djibouti's step was positive and revealed "Egypt's important role in the Middle East."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in Jordan
الجزيرة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية للراي

Saudis planning submarine fleet

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia is planning to establish a submarine fleet, a move that would make it the Middle East's dominant naval force by the mid-1990s, Jane's Defence Weekly said Wednesday. The Saudi government has approached six European governments to supply between six and eight submarines at a cost of up to £2 billion (\$2.9 billion), the magazine said. The British Ministry of Defence has set up a team to manage its bid, due in Riyadh by mid-December. Britain is expected to tender the upholder submarine, made by Vickers and designed mainly for North Atlantic operations. France, West Germany, Italy, Sweden and The Netherlands are also submitting proposals. Military observers say Israel is also considering expanding its submarine fleet of three vessels, using West German technology. Iran is believed to be seeking to revive contracts for the supply of submarines signed with West Germany before the fall of the Shah.

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Rifai meets envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Wednesday received separately the newly appointed ambassadors to Jordan of Syria, the Philippines, and Algeria. Mr. Rifai wished the new envoys success in their mission.

Minister visits Maan

MAAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan paid a visit Wednesday to Maan Governorate where he held a series of meetings with heads of municipal and village councils in the Maan, Shoubak and Wadi Musa regions. The minister stressed during his meetings that improving the financial conditions of local councils was a priority for the ministry and that comprehensive and detailed studies were being conducted by a specialized team on the financial situations of municipal and village councils of Jordan. The study will be submitted to the Prime Ministry, he said.

Medical conference to open in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The first conference of the Swiss Society of Subaquatic and Hyperbaric Medicine will open in Aqaba next Tuesday at the Holiday Inn hotel with the participation of 74 doctors and specialists. The week-long conference will discuss several working papers dealing with accidents and diseases resulting from diving.

Aziz in Paris

PARIS (R) — Iraqi Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz arrived on Wednesday on a special flight from Baghdad. He was met by embassy officials who declined to give details of his visit.

League condemns Athens killing

ATHENS (R) — The League of Arab Nations on Wednesday condemned the killing of a top Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official in Athens and predicted further attacks on members of the group. The league said in a statement that the death of Munther Abu Gazala, killed in a car bomb explosion on Tuesday, confirmed that "suspicious forces are operating secretly in order to undermine the historical friendship of the Greek and Arab people" and said: "These forces will not rest but will continue their criminal actions in order to achieve the following two basic aims: To annihilate top PLO officials wherever they may be and to make Greece appear an unsafe country where terrorism is uncontrollable." The statement said. A PLO announcement said Tuesday 45-year-old Abu Gazala was the chief of the Palestinian naval forces.

'Tutu to visit Israel'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu will soon visit Israel at the invitation of the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, a spokeswoman for the Citizens Rights Movement said Wednesday. The Nobel Peace prize laureate accepted the invitation from legislator Yossi Sarid, who is active in the Israeli-based organization, said the spokeswoman.

Gorbachev hails Iceland talks but vows tough response to expulsions

Soviet leader pledges to pursue nuclear disarmament
Moscow orders out 5 more Americans and tightens rules

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev said Wednesday the U.S. expulsion of 55 Soviet diplomats was a "simply wild" action and assured his nation that the Soviet government would respond with tough sanctions.

Speaking on national television for the second time since the Oct. 11-12 Iceland summit with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Mr. Gorbachev also said the meeting encouraged the Soviet leadership on the possibility of reducing nuclear arms. "It was perhaps the first time in many decades that such a big stride was made in the quest for nuclear disarmament," Mr. Gorbachev said. "I still consider that as a result of the meeting, we achieved a higher stage not only in analysing the situation, but in defining the aims and framework of possible agreements, agreements on nuclear disarmament," he said.

But the Communist Party chief added that the summit "also threw into bold relief the difficulties on the way to a nuclear-free world" and charged that "circles associated with militarism" were frightened by progress made in

Wars' programme was the main obstacle to agreements establishing a non-nuclear world. Mr. Gorbachev accused Washington of seeking to establish military superiority through the system, officially known as the strategic defence initiative or SDI.

The Kremlin leader said his Reykjavik disarmament package was dependent on American agreement to limit SDI research. "SDI is the main obstacle on the path to a non-nuclear world," he declared. But Mr. Gorbachev said Moscow would not withdraw the proposals he made to Mr. Reagan at their summit in the Icelandic capital on Oct. 11 and 12.

Wednesday's expulsion order brought to 10 the number of American diplomats ordered out of the country since Sunday in the superpowers' round of tit-for-tat expulsions, including the U.S. embassy's naval and army attaches.

In terms of immediate expulsions, the Soviet response appeared to fall far short of the U.S. order issued Tuesday that 55 Soviet diplomats in Washington and San Francisco must leave the United States. But the new restrictions seem

likely to limit U.S. embassy and consular operations in the Soviet Union in the same manner as the American expulsion order does for the Soviet missions in the United States.

In addition, the U.S. embassy will be severely taxed by a Kremlin order that removes all 260 of its Soviet employees and restricts the United States' ability to replace them without raising the ceiling on the Soviet embassy staff in Washington.

Meanwhile in Geneva, Scotland, NATO on Wednesday "fully endorsed" the U.S. stance at the Reykjavik summit.

In a communique following the meeting, a majority of defence ministers in the 16-nation Western military alliance also said it supported "Star Wars."

In Washington, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl predicted Wednesday that a U.S.-Soviet summit, cast into doubt by the abortive Iceland meeting, would take place next year and achieve real progress towards an arms control pact.

Dr. Kohl, who arrived in the U.S. on Monday for two full days of talks with U.S. officials, expressed strong support for Mr. Reagan's stance at the Iceland summit.

Fighting flares at Rashidiyeh

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Fighting between Shi'ite Amal militiamen and Palestinian fighters flared overnight at a beleaguered refugee camp in South Lebanon, police said.

An Amal militia source told Reuters two militiamen were wounded when Palestinians tried to storm an Amal checkpoint at the entrance to Rashidiyeh camp, which houses about 20,000 Palestinians on the outskirts of Tyre.

Amal reimposed a siege of the camp early Wednesday, a week after it was partially lifted to allow the evacuation of wounded, he said. Scores of refugees have since

fled Rashidiyeh for fear of further clashes.

The source said two Palestinians were killed in the latest fighting, but Palestinian sources said none of their men had died although three were injured.

Police said the two sides began exchanging heavy fire with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades at midnight. The fighting subsided at dawn into sporadic sniping.

At least 10 people were killed in 10 days of clashes at Rashidiyeh before Palestinian and Amal officials agreed on Oct. 12 to uphold a Syrian-brokered

ceasefire.

Syria played a key role in mediating between Palestinians and Amal fighters who clashed in March and again in May at two refugee camps on the outskirts of Beirut. About 200 people were killed in the Beirut "camps war."

Despite the conflict, fighters from both sides confronted last week's Israeli air raid near Mich Mich.

Palestinians took credit for shooting down an Israeli Phantom fighter with a Soviet-made SAM-7 missile, and Amal militiamen captured its navigator after he bailed out.

Israeli jets stage mock raids over S. Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli planes staged mock raids over South Lebanon on Wednesday after a Shi'ite Muslim militia chief confirmed his men were holding an Israeli airman captive.

Security sources quoted by Reuters said jets sweeping over the port of Sidon and the nearby Palestinian refugee camp of Mich Mich were met by fire from truck-mounted anti-aircraft guns.

Amal militia leader Nabih Berri told reporters in Beirut on Tuesday that his fighters were holding an Israeli navigator whose plane crashed during an air raid on Palestinian camps southeast of Sidon last Thursday.

An Israeli helicopter rescued the pilot after the two crewmen bailed out. The navigator was the first Israeli seized in Lebanon since the pro-Israeli Hizbollah (Party of God) snatched two Israeli soldiers in the south last February.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in New York two days ago that he did not rule out the possibility of a prisoner exchange between Lebanon and Israel "if it will be done on a reasonable level."

Mr. Berri said on Tuesday he had not suggested an exchange. Israeli military sources said Tuesday night that Israel "sees Nabih Berri's announcement regarding the captured pilot in Lebanon as a commitment to the pilot's safety and well-being."

The sources, asking not to be identified further, told the AP that "this statement is not an expression of (Israel's) tranquility."

Machel funeral set for next Tuesday

MAPUTO (Agencies) — Mozambican President Samora Machel, killed in a plane crash in South Africa on Sunday, will be buried next Tuesday and his remains will lie in state from Thursday.

After meeting for two days the country's highest bodies of government, party and parliament said in a statement Tuesday night a 15-member commission headed by ruling Frelimo party veteran Marcelino dos Santos would be in charge of funeral arrangements.

Wednesday's semi-official newspaper Noticias said the leaders of two other former Portuguese African colonies, Angola and Cape Verde, had confirmed they would attend.

It was not known how many other world leaders the Mozambican authorities will be able to invite.

Western diplomats said security considerations had to be taken into account amid allegations in Zambia and Zimbabwe that Mr. Machel's plane was shot down.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Wednesday joined charges that South Africa was behind the death of Mr. Machel. Tripoli Radio said Col. Qadhafi denounced "this barbaric crime" in a message of condolence sent to the central committee of Frelimo party.

Expressing "deep sorrow and anger" over Mr. Machel's death, Col. Qadhafi was quoted as saying: "We assert again our total support to your people and party and stand with your people with all our capabilities to face foreign aggression and challenge."

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda on Wednesday accused South Africa of playing a role in Mr. Machel's death, saying the country was guilty "until they are proven innocent."

South Africa has said pilot error and bad weather was the most probable cause of the crash and

invited international aviation experts to join the investigation team.

In Johannesburg, a Soviet diplomat on Wednesday visited the Soviet pilot injured in the plane crash that killed Mr. Machel.

South Africa, which has no relations with the Soviet Union, allowed the diplomat and Nadejda Novoselova, wife of pilot Vladimir Novoselov, to make the trip from Maputo.

The pilot was quoted as saying he believed he was shot down. Zimbabwean riot police used wooden batons and shields on Wednesday to disperse hundreds of students demanding the release of youths arrested in violent demonstrations over the death of Mr. Machel.

Witnesses told AP no-one appeared to be seriously hurt in the charge, mounted when some 700 students from Harare polytechnic gathered at the central police station after a peaceful march through downtown.

On Tuesday, some 5,000 youths burned and stoned diplomatic missions and airlines offices, assaulted passersby and overturned cars in the heart of Harare's business centre.

They said they were angry over what they said was South African involvement in the death of Mr. Machel.

On Wednesday, the students gathered at Harare's central square outside parliament. Escorted by riot police, they marched to the police station, carrying signs praising Mr. Machel and denouncing the Malaysian and South African heads of state. Shortly before his death, Mr. Machel accused Malawi of aiding right-wing rebels in Mozambique — called "armed bandits" here — and threatened to place missiles along their joint border if this did not stop.

Iraqis strike at 2 divisions of Iranian soldiers

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi warplanes carried out massive strikes Wednesday against two divisions of Iran's Revolutionary Guards corps en route to the battlefield and inflicted heavy casualties, the Iraqi military command said.

A communique said the jets made a series of raids on the Iranian troops starting at 3:25 p.m.

The targets, it said, were two divisions of the guards corps, a force of volunteers fiercely loyal to the Iranian patriarch, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Such divisions are estimated to have up to 10,000 men each.

The communique, broadcast on Iraqi television, said the raiding jets left enormous numbers of casualties in their wake and "explosions erupting with tongues of flame billowing" from burning ammunition dumps and vehicles.

Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti oil tanker was struck early Wednesday in a hit-and-run attack by an Iranian gunboat in the southern Gulf waters off Dubai, the London-based Lloyd's shipping intelligence unit and Gulf-based marine salvage executives reported. (See page 2)

Britain cautions its nationals living in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The British embassy on Wednesday advised British citizens in Lebanon to take extra security precautions and perhaps leave the country, amid concern over possible repercussions of the El Al bomb trial in London.

"In the light of recent developments, the advice of the British government to U.K. citizens residing in all areas of Lebanon is that they should



KING RECEIVES DELEGATES: His Majesty King Hussein receives at Al Nadwa Palace on Wednesday five delegates — Mohammad Hafez Ismail, Amin Hweidi, Abdul Majid Farid, Mohammad Bashir Hamed and Foad Matar — taking part in a symposium on the "Importance of Babel Mandeb to Arab National Security." The symposium was opened here Tuesday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Attending: Wednesday's audience were Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (Petra photo)

Taher Hijazi named mayor of Anabta

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli occupation authorities have appointed Taher Hijazi as mayor of Anabta Municipality in the occupied West Bank, Israel Radio said Wednesday. Mr. Hijazi was the fourth Arab mayor appointed by the Israeli authorities in one month. The occupation authorities named the other three mayors, to the towns of Hebron, Al Bireh and Ramallah, last month.

In an interview with Jordan Television, two prominent Palestinian leaders said on Wednesday that the appointment of Palestinian mayors in West Bank towns was a much welcome prospect than Israeli army officers administering the municipal and civil affairs of the Palestinian people living there.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij and Sa'ed Kanaan, a leading academician from Nablus, both pointed out that Arab mayors in the West Bank and Gaza would serve their people's interests much

better than Israeli army officers.

Mr. Freij and Mr. Kanaan, referring to Jordan's five-year development plan for the occupied territories, said they staunchly supported the plan since the West Bank and Gaza were in dire need of financial support.

The plan, they said, aims at strengthening the steadfastness of the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories. "Without this steadfastness, the Palestinian cause will cease to exist," Jordan Television quoted both leaders as saying in the interview.

Mr. Freij said those who opposed the Jordanian development for the occupied territories were "passing the death sentence on the Palestinian people."

Jordan Television gave a short account of the interview with Mr. Freij and Mr. Kanaan on Wednesday and said the full interview would be broadcast on Thursday evening.

Portuguese premier backs Jordan's stand

LISBON, Portugal (Petra) — Portuguese Prime Minister

Hannibal de Silva has expressed his country's support of Jordan's firm stand which condemns all forms of terrorism regardless of its source and affirmed that the call to combat terrorism does not nullify the right to resist occupation and usurpation of people's rights.

Mr. De Silva was speaking at a meeting with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayed, who is on a visit to Portugal at the head of a parliamentary delegation from Amman.

Mr. De Silva also reiterated his country's support for Arab causes and emphasised the need to terminate Israel's occupation of Arab territories. The prime minister also expressed Portugal's backing for efforts of the European Community (EC) towards ending the six-year-old

Iran-Iraq war and restoring Middle East security and peace.

Mr. Fayed and Mr. De Silva discussed relations between Jordan and Portugal and ways of further promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The speaker and the prime minister reviewed various international issues and the latest developments in the Middle East, with particular focus on the Palestinian problem, the Iran-Iraq and the situation in Lebanon. Also discussed were current efforts towards convening an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and insists on direct talks with Arab states.

"We don't think an international peace conference is contradictory to direct negotiations," Mr. Abdul Meguid said. "We have to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem with all parties concerned."

Egypt assails Shamir's settlement drive

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid said Wednesday that the new Israeli government's policy on settlements in the occupied Arab territories was illegal and an obstacle to peace.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who took over office from Shimon Peres in a power-sharing agreement, has urged Jews to settle in all of Israel and the occupied Arab territories.

"I am not happy about the statement by Shamir on settlements," Mr. Abdul Meguid told a group of U.S. businessmen. "The existence of the settlements is illegal and an obstacle to peace."

Mr. Abdul Meguid said, however, that he considered still valid an agreement in principle between President Hosni Mubarak and Mr. Peres in Alexandria on Sept. 12 on a committee to prepare for an international Middle East peace conference.

"I think we have an agreement with the government of Israel," Mr. Abdul Meguid said. "Shamir has his reservations... but I hope Israel will leave the concept of an international conference valid."

Mr. Shamir has rejected an international peace conference — to include all parties to the Middle East conflict as well as the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — and insists on direct talks with Arab states.

"We don't think an international peace conference is contradictory to direct negotiations," Mr. Abdul Meguid said. "We have to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem with all parties concerned."

abducted there.

Some 25 Britons still live in west Beirut. Women married to Lebanese account for most of the British community in Lebanon.

Two British journalists, John McCarthy and Alec Collett, are among 21 foreigners missing, feared kidnapped in Lebanon. British diplomats now live and work in east Beirut, considered safer than the western sector.

Francis Gallagher, first secretary at the embassy, told Reuters on Wednesday that the diplomats had left Lebanon for

London, but stressed the move was temporary. "They will be coming back," he said.

Three British diplomats, as well as nine British bodyguards and about 30 Lebanese staff, remain at the embassy, where visa and consular sections still operate.

Ambassador John Gray is currently in London and diplomatic sources said on Tuesday it was not clear if he would return.

Kidnapped AUB professor freed, page 2

OPENING TODAY Soviet Book Exhibition at the Grand Palace Hotel

Great variety of political, literary, scientific and children's books in Arabic and English with special discount.

Daily from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
The exhibition will continue until November 3rd

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Iranian gunboats attack Kuwaiti tanker off Dubai

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies) — A Kuwaiti oil tanker was struck early Wednesday in a hit-and-run attack by Iranian gunboats in the southern Gulf waters off Dubai, the London-based Lloyds Shipping Intelligence Unit and Gulf-based marine salvage executives reported.

The 263,000-ton Al Faiha is the fifth tanker belonging to the state-run Kuwait oil tanker company to be attacked by Iran in the so-called tanker war, an offshoot of the six-year Iran-Iraq war.

The shipping executives, who spoke on condition they not be identified, said an Iranian gunboat fired a surface-to-surface missile at the tanker as it was sailing to Kuwait to pick up a shipment of crude oil.

The oil was destined for Rotterdam, the executives said. The attack occurred at 2:40 a.m. (2346 GMT Tuesday), and the missile hit the tanker above the waterline near the engine room.

It blew a 30 by 50 centimetre hole in the starboard bunker tank and started a fire which was put out within 10 minutes by the crew, the sources said.

No casualties were reported, they said.

Lloyds said damage was not extensive and that the ship was heading for Dubai for repairs.

Iran has been attacking commercial ships in neutral Gulf waters in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on Iranian shipping lanes

near its vital Kharg Island oil terminal.

Until last month, Iran only raided tankers and freighters by day, using its Phantom F-4 jet fighters and helicopter gunships.

Its night attacks with fast frigates began in September as more and more ships began moving at night to evade Iranian air attacks.

The first Iranian gunboat strike on a vessel came at night on Sept. 16 and targeted another Kuwait oil tanker company (KOTC) ship near Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian offshore oil fields. No casualties were reported in that attack on Al Funtas.

But the second Iranian gunboat attack came last Friday. The Panamanian tanker Five Brooks was hit close to the Omani coast, sustaining heavy damage in which 11 seamen died. It was one of the highest casualty tolls for vessels raided by either Iraq or Iran.

Aside from the Al Faiha and the Al Funtas, KOTC tankers hit in the war have been the Al Bahra, Al Qasba and Kazimah. The Kazimah was raided on two separate occasions.

Iran has been targeting vessels sailing to and from the ports of the

southern Gulf Arab countries, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, contending that all sea lanes of the oil-rich region would be insecure as long as Iranian shipping lanes were threatened by Iraq.

The Tehran rulers also seek to pressure Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to cease the billions of dollars they provide in aid to Iraq.

The sources said the Al Faiha was hit in a starboard bunker tank after being challenged by the gunboat, which demanded to know its name, nationality and destination.

They gave the position of the attack as 25 degrees 25 minutes north and 55 degrees and 08 minutes east.

The attack coincided with the end of OPEC's marathon conference in Geneva, which increased Kuwait's oil output quota despite initial objections from other members of the 13-nation group, especially Iran.

In London James Rand, chairman of the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (Intertanko), said Tuesday the Gulf war had produced the most serious assault on merchant shipping since World War II.

He said that if attacks continued on tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, separating Oman and Iran at the entrance to the Gulf, there might come a time when the Gulf could become closed to shipping, with tanker owners unwilling to risk entering it.

PLO begins reconciliation talks in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Five Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions, including two Syrian-based groups, have started talks in Tunis aimed at settling differences and preparing a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), Palestinian sources said Wednesday.

The long-delayed talks, which began Tuesday night, are at the level of deputy leaders. They are the first such publicised forum since a 1984 session of the PNC boycotted by pro-Syrian factions.

They follow a series of restricted meetings aimed at patching up quarrels within the PLO since the suspension of a PLO-Jordanian accord in February and a subsequent Algerian call for Palestinian reconciliation talks.

Apart from PLO chief Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah group, the two other factions taking part which are allied to him are the tiny Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) headed by Muhammad Abbas, also known as Abu Abbas, and the Arab Liberation Front (ALF).

The factions based in Syria, which expelled Mr. Arafat in 1983 after backing a rebellion against him, are the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a major Damascus-based group, and the Palestinian Communist Party, the sources said.

Since an Algerian offer in April to host a PLO reconciliation conference, a meeting to prepare a PNC session has been successively postponed.

The sources said it was still unclear when a PNC meeting could be held and PLO officials have indicated it would not be before early next year.

Other Syrian-based factions, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), headed by George Habash, have not taken part.

Those taking part in the current talks at Mr. Arafat's Tunis headquarters include Yasser Abed Rabbo, number two to DFLP leader Naif Hawatme, the sources said.

Two of the PLO's 10-man inner cabinet, the Executive Committee, in the talks are Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of Fatah and Ahmad Abderrahim of the ALF, they added.

Kidnappers free AUB professor in W. Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — A Christian professor at the American University of Beirut (AUB), kidnapped more than five months ago, has been freed in the Muslim sector of the Lebanese capital, university authorities said Wednesday.

University spokesman Radwan Mawlawi said Nabil Matar, 36, an associate professor of the cultural studies, was freed Tuesday night in "fairly good shape" after 168 days of captivity.

"He's back home with his wife," Mr. Mawlawi said. But he offered no explanation as to why Matar was freed by his captors.

The university later said in a statement: "The AUB administration expressed gratitude to all government authorities and political and religious leaders whose incessant efforts led to the release of Prof. Matar." It did not elaborate.

Matar, a Lebanese, was kidnapped on May 7 as he walked from his home in the Muslim west Beirut's Ras Beirut residential district to the nearby campus.

A group calling itself the Independent Movement for Freeing Civil War Kidnap Victims claimed responsibility for the

abduction in a statement May 18. The group said Matar's abduction was part of its campaign to force the Lebanese government to determine the fate of about 2,300 kidnapped Lebanese allegedly held by Falangist militias.

The group also claimed it killed several Armenians in west Beirut last May as part of its campaign to pressure the government.

Matar's release came a few hours after another faction, the Revolutionary Justice Organisation, claimed it had kidnapped Edward Austin Tracy, an American and self-styled writer of children's books.

A handwritten statement from the group delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut charged that Tracy spied for the United States and Israel. U.S. officials denied the allegation.

The Middle East Reporter, a daily digest of Arab World affairs published in Beirut, said that Tracy was a convert to Islam.

He used to readily show a certificate to prove this, saying he obtained it from the Islamic University of Al Azhar in Cairo, the Arab World's most prestigious religious institution.

U.N. assembly blocks bid to reject Israel's credentials

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — For the fifth successive year, the General Assembly has defeated a bid to reject Israel's U.N. credentials.

By a vote of 77 to 40, with 16 abstentions, the assembly, approved a proposal by Iceland, on behalf of the five Nordic states, to take no action on an Arab motion to make an exception of the Israeli delegation's credentials.

The vote last year to shelve a similar motion was 80 to 41, with 20 abstentions.

This year's challenge to the Israeli delegation was sponsored by 20 Arab states, joined later by Iran.

Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, voted for the Icelandic motion. The Arab states were joined in opposing it by the Soviet Union and most of its allies.

Romania, the only East Bloc country maintaining full diplomatic relations with Israel, again opposed the Arab move. China again abstained while Poland, as last year, did not vote at all.

The United States repeatedly has threatened to withdraw from the assembly if Israel is ejected.

South Africa has not been permitted to participate in the work of the Assembly or its committees since its credentials were rejected in November 1974.

Oman, the current chairman of the Arab group, cited as grounds for rejecting Israel's credentials its failure to comply with U.N. resolutions, its violation of human rights, aggression and annexation of Arab territory, and the fact the credentials were issued in "occupied Jerusalem."

An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday Israel was pleased with the defeat of the motion.

Ivory Coast to reconsider location of Israel mission

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Ivory Coast says it will reconsider the reopening of its embassy in Jerusalem, following an Arab League threat to break off relations with this West African country.

In a statement carried Wednesday in the Ivorian media, Minister of Foreign Affairs Simeon Ake said the Ivorian government "deeply deplors the unexpected decision of the Arab League." He said the national council of the ruling Ivory Coast Democratic Party would be meeting next Sunday to reconsider the issue.

"This party body will be analysing the question, taking into account the pertinent August 1980 (U.N.) Security Council resolution inviting member states with diplomatic missions in Jerusalem to withdraw them," he said.

Ivory Coast is one of four African states, along with Liberia, Zaire and Cameroon, to re-establish relations with Israel since black Africa cut its ties to that country following the 1973 Middle East war.

Following the renewal of ties last February Ivory Coast ruled Arab nations by announcing it would reopen its embassy in Jerusalem. Morocco's King

Hassan II recently sent a special emissary to ask Ivorian leader Felix Houphouët-Boigny to reconsider the decision. But last month Ivory Coast's ambassador to Israel, Jean Pierre Boni, reopened the Jerusalem mission.

Last Sunday in Tunis, the foreign ministers of the Arab League passed a resolution calling for the breaking of political and economic ties with Ivory Coast, citing a 1980 Arab summit resolution to cut ties with any state which recognises Jerusalem as the Israeli capital.

Arab nations and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have objected to Israel's establishment of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state. Most Western diplomatic missions in Israel, including the U.S. embassy, are located in Tel Aviv.

In the Ivorian statement, Mr. Ake reiterated his government's claim that the decision to reopen its Jerusalem embassy last month was practical and not political.

"It is not a question of opening a new embassy in Jerusalem but the official reopening in the same location, of our embassy. This reopening does not imply in any way a stance by the Ivorian government on the status of Jerusalem," he said.

Israelis close 2 labour union offices in W. Bank

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli occupation forces have ordered the closure of two labour union offices in the occupied West Bank.

An Israeli announcement said Tuesday the offices of the General Association of the Workers' Unions in the West Bank town of Nablus were used for "large-scale subversive and hostile activities" on behalf of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

The announcement described the closure as "part of preventive measures taken against the organisations, and particularly the Democratic Front, who have been trying to conduct their hostile activities by camouflaging it as labour unions."

The announcement said the first office was shut down by the army six months ago and following the closure, another office was opened in Nablus. The closure

order extended the closure of the first office by another six months and shut the second office for six months.

Israel Radio reported that the General Association of the Workers' Unions sent a telegram of protest to the United Nations.

The radio said that the labour unions' organisation Secretary-General Mahmoud Ziade was detained by Israeli forces this week and put under an administrative arrest. Other activists were reported as arrested after the army searched the organisation's offices in Nablus and Jerusalem.

In August, Israeli army closed for a month the headquarters of another West Bank labour union federation, the Public Association of the Labour Unions. The federation's chairman, Shenade Minawi, was confined for six months to his hometown of Nablus.

Jailed guerrilla condemns Paris blasts

PARIS (R) — Anis Naccache, a Lebanese guerrilla whose release from a French jail has been demanded by a group claiming responsibility for bombing in Paris, said Wednesday his would-be liberators were a creation of intelligence services.

Naccache was jailed for life after leading a failed 1980 assassination attempt against former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar in which two people died and three people were injured.

His release, together with that of suspected Lebanese guerrilla leader Georges Ibrahim Abdallah and convicted guerrilla Varoujan Garbidjian, has been demanded

by a group known as the Committee of Solidarity for Arab and Middle East Political Prisoners (CSPPA).

"The CSPPA is a hotpotch mounted by intelligence services that aims for everything except the release of three detainees," Naccache said in written answers published Wednesday in the left-wing daily Liberation.

Police have advanced a theory that the committee is a cover for the Maronite Marxist group known as the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Front (FARL) of which Abdallah is believed to be the leader.

The French government has said it has no proof that foreign

governments were involved in the recent bombings.

Naccache reiterated his earlier condemnations of the bombings, adding: "I consider that neither the methods nor the objectives of this so-called committee of support correspond to mine."

Speaking of his own past guerrilla role, he said:

"I would like to remind French opinion that our mission was in no way aimed at the French people or the French government. Our target was the cursed Bakhtiar, this Iranian sold to the Americans, who took advantage of the right of asylum in France to direct sabotage and conspiracy against his country."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme review
16:10 Cartoons
16:30 Tom Seston
16:50 Social programme for children
17:10 Local talent show
17:30 Local agricultural programme
17:50 Contest programme
18:10 News programme
18:30 Programme review and varieties
18:50 News in Arabic
19:10 An interview with Bethlehem mayor

BBC WORLD SERVICE

6:45, 7:20, 12:23 kHz

06:00 News 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Radio 4 Choice 07:45 The Today Programme 08:00 News 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World News 09:05 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Folk in the New World 09:45 Newsweek UK 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Country Style 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 11:45 Growing Points 12:00 News Summary: The Savoy Opera 12:30 Sports Frayn 12:30 World News 12:35 News about Britain 12:45 News 13:00 13:25 A Letter from England 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Multitrack 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Newsweek UK 15:45 Lyrics and Lyrics 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 Juice Box 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 The Pressures Years 18:00 World News 18:05 Newsweek 18:15 Assignment 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:05 A Letter from England 19:15 Meridian 19:30 Mission to Turin 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:05 Discovery 21:00 News Summary: Promenade Concert 21:20 Stock Market Report 21:45 Here's Humph 22:00 World News 22:05 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Business Matters 22:45 News Summary: Book Choice 23:00 In the Measure 23:15 A Jolly Good Show 24:00 World News 00:05 The World Today 00:25 A Letter from England 00:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:05 24 Hours: News Summary 01:15 Merchandise Navy Programme 01:30 Masterpiece in Miniature

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & parly on 450 KHz, SW Tel: 774111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
09:30 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:30 News Summary
11:00 News Summary
11:30 News Summary
12:00 News Summary
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14:30 News Summary
15:00 News Summary
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:30 News Summary
17:00 News Summary
17:30 News Summary
18:00 News Summary

FOR FRIDAY

21:00 Arabic series
21:50 Highlights from Jerash Festival 1986

JORDAN TELEVISION

23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 French film
18:30 News in French
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in French
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Weekly Preview
21:00 Once an Eagle
21:30 News in English
22:00 News in English
22:30 Sherlock Holmes

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & parly on 450 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
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14:30 News Summary
15:00 News Summary
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:30 News Summary
17:00 News Summary
17:30 News Summary
18:00 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition entitled "Le Corbusier" at the architectural gallery at Riyadh Centre, 3rd Circle (until Oct. 30).

* Photographic exhibition of the Villa Savoy at the architectural gallery at Riyadh Centre, 3rd Circle.

* An art exhibition by Mrs. Nayar Rashid at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Oct. 23).

* An art exhibition by Basem Al Sheikh Jewad at the Jordan International Hotel (until Oct. 24).

"MUSIC"

* "Young Singers" by the Jordanian Musicians Association at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

CINEMA

* "La cite del indicible peur" at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

FEATURE FILM

* "The Entertainment" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre Library 644371
British Council 6361478
French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre 636049
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Haya Arts Centre 667185
Husa Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 636111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Falkland Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 624590.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 678906.
Anglican Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 71331.
Anglican Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 717151.
International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeissal, Tel. 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabbal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation (International, Interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabbal Amman, Tel. 666974.

PRAYER TIMES

04:21 Sunrise
05:44 Sunrise
11:21 Dhuhr
14:33 Asr
16:53 Maghreb
18:21 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:00 Agaba (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:00 London (RJ)
10:00 Larnaca (RJ)
10:00 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
10:00 New York, Vienna (RJ)
10:00 Athens (RJ)
10:00 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS

10:30 Riyadh (SV)
11:30 Kuwait (LN)
12:40 Abu Dhabi, Doha, Bahrain (GF)
13:05 Cairo (MS)
13:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:30 Istanbul, Ankara (KS)
18:15 Amsterdam, Larnaca (KLM)
18:25 Athens (SV)
19:10 Frankfurt (LH)
19:40 Zurich, Larnaca (BA)
23:40 London (BA)

DEPARTURES

ALIA FLIGHTS

06:45 Agaba (RJ)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:40 Cairo (RJ)
12:45 Brussels, Frankfurt (LH)
13:00 Larnaca (RJ)
13:00 Baghdad (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30 Damascus (RJ)
20:30 Larnaca, Agaba (RJ)
20:45 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)
00:15 Cairo (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS

08:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:00 Beirut (ME)
11:30 Athens (SV)
12:30 Tripoli (LN)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port:

— Dresden
— Lanka Sri
— Ruzhany
— Pripi Spitskiy Odred
— Marimo

Amin Kassar and Sons Company, with its office at Shmeissal, at your service, tel. 603703/15.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A rise in temperature is expected, with the appearance of medium and high clouds. Northwesterly moderate winds will change into southwesterly fresh causing dust. In Agaba, it will be dusty, with northerly moderate winds and calm sea.

WEATHER

Amman 23, Agaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Agaba 37 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell-buy rates in J.S.
Belgian franc 22.3 / 83.4
Dutch guilder 151.2 / 153.2
French franc 52.2 / 52.9
Italian lire 24.7 / 25
Japanese yen (for 100) 218.7 / 221.1
Swiss franc 49.6 / 50.2
S.W. franc 208.3 / 211
U.S. sterling pound 487.1 / 492
U.S. dollar 339.6 / 342.7
W. German mark 170.8 / 173.2

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Amman civil defence 196199
Civil Defence Jabbal 771233, 773131
Civil Defence Qweissieh 770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 138
First aid 63541
Blood bank 678303
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 622090-3
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters 639112
Traffic police 639112
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints 77

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rifai confers with Chinese delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Wednesday conferred in his office with Dr. Huan Xiang, director general of the Centre of International Studies of the State Council in China. Dr. Xiang led China's delegation to a Sino-Arab dialogue held here over the past week under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. During the meeting, the prime minister and Dr. Xiang discussed Sino-Jordanian relations and means of bolstering bilateral cooperation. The meeting was attended by China's Ambassador to Jordan Chang Jin and the members of the Chinese delegation who attended the dialogue.

Sharif Zaid to visit Britain

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker will leave for Britain at the beginning of next week heading a military delegation on a several-day official visit to Britain at the invitation of the British chief of joint staff.

Lawzi cables Egyptian, Lebanese speakers

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi has sent a cable of congratulations to Dr. Suhli Abdul Hakim congratulating him on his election as speaker of the Shoura (consultative) council in Egypt. In his cable, Mr. Lawzi wished Dr. Abdul Hakim success in serving the democratic goals of his country. Mr. Lawzi also sent a cable to Mr. Hussein Al Hussein congratulating him on his election as speaker of the Lebanese Lower House of Parliament. Mr. Lawzi wished Mr. Hussein success in serving his country to achieve its aspirations and to defend Lebanon's unity and sovereignty.

Hindawi to attend ISESCO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Touqan Hindawi is due to leave for Morocco on Sunday to head Jordan's delegation to the extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) which opens in Rabat on Oct. 27. The three-day meeting will discuss amendments to ISESCO's bylaws and regulations as proposed by Jordan. Mr. Hindawi will be accompanied by a four member delegation.

Olive gathering effort to start Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — A national campaign for gathering the olive crop in Jordan is due to start on Saturday. The Ministries of Agriculture and Education and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature are cooperating together in the campaign which also involves the participation of schoolchildren and the Armed Forces. Trucks provided by the army will be used to transport the students to different olive groves where they will help farmers to gather the crop.

Rawabdeh meets vice mayor of Shanghai

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh conferred in his office on Wednesday with the vice mayor of Shanghai in China who is currently on a visit to Jordan. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between the two cities in public services. Mr. Rawabdeh briefed the visitor on Amman's public services and programmes and he received an invitation to visit Shanghai.

An adventure in Chinese songs, dances

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Audiences in Jordan will be able to have a taste of the mysteries and splendours of the 5,000-year-old Chinese history next week when a group of university students from Taiwan, the Republic of China, will render four dance performances in Amman and Irbid.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of Chinese dances is the diversity of colours in the dancing costumes and movements on stage. Audiences could not help but be impressed with the range of colourful dresses presented on stage; from dark blue and violet to light golden and from the traditional costumes of peasants to the fashions of today's youth.

The diversity of the Chinese culture itself is symbolised in the contrasting movements of dancers; in one style of dance, the dancers move gracefully to the rhythm of the melodious music, they would be performing acrobatic feats in the next.

Quite rightfully, the programme is entitled "An Adventure in Chinese Songs and Dances." Ranging from ancient songs dating back to 3000 B.C. through the Yao-Chih, Han and Tang dynasties to today's campus music, the group's performances in Jordan will include a remarkable presentation of the rich Chinese history. Interspersed between the ancient and the modern are dances depicting martial arts with strange-looking weapons.

Non-stop show

Another highlight of the group's performances is that each of the four events scheduled in Jordan will be "non-stop" for 90 minutes; meaning each dance team will follow the other to the stage with no break in the flow of the events. It also means that a team which rendered a particular dance item will be busy changing costumes for its next number while another group is performing on stage.

A slight disappointment awaits the audience; the dancers will be performing to taped music instead of live orchestra. The fun could have been much more if one could watch Chinese music instruments in action; they are as strange-looking as the ancient weapons of the Orient.

Next week's visit to Jordan of the Taiwanese group will be the second in the Kingdom from the Republic of China. Another group visited in Jordan last year.



Traditional arts in war and peace — folk dance by the Chinese Youth Goodwill Group.

Guests of the Ministry of Culture and Arts, the members of the visiting team will also tour various sites of attraction in Jordan.

The members of the group are drawn from the numerous universities, colleges and other technical and academic institutions in Taiwan, which gives equal importance to cultural heritage and traditions as to technology and science in its educational system.

The group's performances in Jordan are scheduled as follows:

LA CHEMISE LACOSTE ONLY JD 3
for LACOSTE T-shirts

a wide variety of models, plain and striped in different sizes and for all members of the family. We also have world famous Lacoste socks.

Hawatmeh Video
Downtown - opposite Jabri Restaurants

Hawatmeh Stores
Faisal Street, downtown, near the Goldsmith Market.



PRINCE HASSAN VISITS ARMY HQ: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday pays a visit to the Armed Forces general headquarters for a meeting with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (Petra photo)

U.N. bodies draw up working plan to improve health services to refugees

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A two-day meeting called to evaluate health services provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has produced a working plan to promote these services in the agency's five areas of operation.

Dr. Najl Ayyash, vice deputy director of UNRWA's health services at the agency's Vienna headquarters, said that part of the plan will be carried out by UNRWA and the remainder will be jointly executed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), but he gave no other details.

Dr. Ayyash said that the delegates discussed the general health and medical situation of Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and made a general evaluation of health services available to these refugees. He said that a general meeting grouping the educational and health sectors of UNRWA and representatives of UNICEF and WHO will meet on Thursday morning to discuss a plan for promoting cooperation between the three United Nations organisations in order to provide a better health service to the refugees.

According to Dr. Khader Azzam, director of UNRWA's medical services in Jordan, the number of registered refugees in Jordan now stands at 750,000, of whom 30 per cent live in camps. In addition, to providing medical

care at agency-run clinics, UNRWA's health department in Jordan has started a home visit service under which doctors examine and treat patients in their homes, Dr. Azzam said.

The department has also established a centre for providing training and conducting research on health problems and finding solutions to these problems. Dr. Azzam continued. He said that UNRWA has not had access to hospitalisation services in Jordan since 1980 when the UNRWA agreement with Jordan was terminated. However, contacts are underway to conclude a new contract for the use of government hospitals to treat UNRWA patients which would greatly improve the situation, he added.

He went on to say that UNRWA is also in need of centres to provide care for mothers and children at the refugee camps and needs funds to build modern health centres at Baqa'a and Marka camps. UNRWA is now expecting funds to come from the Canadian government for financing these centres, Dr. Azzam continued.

He said that the Jordanian government has provided the refugee camps in Jordan with water and sewerage networks which have greatly improved the

general health and sanitary conditions for refugees.

According to Dr. Arafat Salim, head of UNRWA's West Bank health services department, there are 300,000 registered refugees in the occupied territory who are served by 32 health centres free of charge. In addition, he said, UNRWA's hospitals in Jerusalem, Nablus, Qalqiliya and Hebron offer free medical services to the refugees. UNRWA, he added, now plans to enlarge and expand its services and health facilities within the agency's available financial means.

Dr. Samir Al Badri from Gaza's health department, said that apart from medical treatment, his department offers nutritional services and preventive health services to the refugees in the Gaza area. Altogether UNRWA has nine centres in Gaza which offer such services free of charge, Dr. Badri said.

The meeting was attended by directors of health departments at UNRWA's headquarters in Amman and Vienna along with local health officials. The participants discussed environmental health, nutrition and the role of schools in health education in addition to evaluating UNRWA's health services to refugees.

Parent company denies reports of Citibank pullout from Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Citicorp, the parent of Citibank, has officially quashed inaccurate press reports that it is considering closing its Citibank branch in Amman.

Citicorp's senior corporate office director for the Middle East and Europe, Richard Lehman, said in an interview with the Middle East Economic Digest magazine this week that "Jordan is not under discussion, we have no intention of withdrawing," when he was asked about a press report earlier this month that Citibank was considering withdrawing from Jordan, Oman and Qatar.

Citibank is reliably thought to have communicated to the Central Bank of Jordan that it intends to maintain its branch in Jordan, which has operated here profitably for over a decade.

Citibank is one of the few foreign banks that has met some of the Jordanian government's expectations that foreign banks would add a measure of technical and financial sophistication to the Jordanian financial scene.

Mr. Lehman's statement is the first public, official response to the reports, first circulated in the Wall Street Journal earlier this month, that Citicorp was reconsidering its operations in several Arab countries in view of the economic recession that followed the decline in oil production and prices.

Correction

The Jordan Times reported yesterday that Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez was expected to begin a visit to Jordan on Wednesday. Mr. Fernandez Ordonez will in fact begin his visit on Oct. 28, 1986.

Dr. Adnan Al Hadidi, director of the Department of Antiquities who will represent Jordan at the conference, said that the delegates

will discuss a general policy for the preservation of artefacts, Islamic and Arab countries have coordinated their position and decided to highlight the importance of Islamic heritage at the conference, which is expected to last 10 days. Dr. Hadidi continued.

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Conference restates urgent need to establish Arab wheat council as step towards food security

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Participants in a three-day conference on the strategic storage of cereals in the Arab World wound up their discussions on Wednesday with a call on all concerned Arab League organisations to complete the necessary work for the establishment of an Arab Council for wheat and cereals.

The council would be responsible for coordination among its members to ensure national and regional supplies of strategic storage of cereals in the Arab World and would also supervise the setting up of regional silos, organise the imports of cereals and make available early alarm system for Arab food shortages, which might result from natural disasters, political pressures or world price fluctuations.

The seminar, which was organised by the Arab Union for Food Industries (AUFI) in cooperation with the Ministry of Supply, discussed 18 working papers on subjects ranging from the production and storage of cereals, and Arab cereal security to the latest technologies adopted by foreign participant countries in cereal storage, building of silos, shipping, loading, unloading and post-harvesting as well as harvesting and marketing.

According to statistical information, the Arab World is spending \$25 billion a year on food imports and the total imports of cereals form one fifth of the total international market.

The delegates called on Arab countries to work towards coordinating the process of pan-Arab cereal imports and to create a united negotiating stand vis-a-vis the major wheat export centres as well as to exchange information on all Arab wheat purchases. Participants from seven Arab and seven foreign countries attended the seminar, which discussed means to reverse the rate at which the Arab states' gap between food production and consumption was increasing.

The 15-point final communiqué, which was issued at the end of the meeting, also suggested the importance of following up on all recommendations put forward by previous Arab seminars on the issue of preventing large losses resulting from improper harvesting, storage and processing.

They also called on Arab women's federations to coordinate with their concerned authorities to raise public awareness about the management of cereal consumption. Official figures say that the Arab World's self sufficiency in cereals dropped from 57 per cent in the mid-1970s to 51 per cent in the mid-1980s.

Dr. Jaber's wide-ranging technical paper identified the concepts of farm storage and strategic storage and operational storage as well as international cereal production and the consumption of wheat in the world.

He also gave rough estimations of the percentages of Arab self-sufficiency in cereals, and the region's future needs of wheat, corn, rice and barley.

Dr. Jaber said that the total production of wheat of the developed nations in comparison with the total ratio of world wheat production reached 66.3 per cent in 1984, while the Arab World's total production of wheat compared to the total world production reached 1.6 per cent.

Dr. Jaber's paper added that the

Arab World's consumption of cereals during 1975-1982 was steadily increasing with the exception of Syria and Lebanon which both maintained average consumption patterns.

The paper expected a 2.74 per cent growth in the Arab demand for wheat between the period of 1990-2000, which will reach 41.8 million tonnes of wheat, while the Arab World's self-sufficiency in wheat will reach 43.2 per cent with a total production of 18 million tonnes of wheat by the end of this century.

Dr. Jaber further predicted that the Arab countries would be importing around 19 million tonnes of wheat by the year 1990 and 24 million tonnes of wheat by the year 2000.

If the present pattern of wheat growing and consumption in the Arab World remains unchanged, Dr. Jaber expected that by the year 2000, the Arab World will produce on a daily basis 750 million loaves of bread, for which it has to import 60 per cent of the wheat. Therefore, the issue of creating a pan-Arab strategy for the storage of strategic cereals in general, and wheat in particular, should be the number one priority for the Arab World to achieve, he said.

Dr. Jaber suggested that 20,875 tonnes of wheat were an adequate amount for a strategic storage of Arab cereals for a period of six months.

Dr. Jaber's paper also discussed the various techniques in the building of silos, the Arab World's silos, and a review of the situation of wheat in the area, its storage and means to increase cereal production.

During Wednesday's session, other papers on the strategy of food security in the Arab World, silos in the region, the production and storage of wheat in Hungary as well as strategic storage of wheat in Iraq were submitted to the meeting.

Delegates cable thanks to King, Crown Prince

Participants in the symposium sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein expressing their deep appreciation and gratitude for the hospitality accorded to them during their stay in Jordan. They also commended Jordan's economic progress on the road towards ensuring food security and securing cereal storage.

They sent a similar cable to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in which they expressed appreciation for his patronising the meeting and making an active contribution to the deliberations. The delegates expressed hope that the recommendations would win Prince Hassan's consideration and support; and pledged to work towards their implementation.

THE BRITISH AIRWAYS THEATRE AT THE JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL PRESENTS

PETER WYNGARDE HELEN GILL
ROY BOYD • TONY CAUNTER
PAUL BLAKE
ANNABELLE LANYON
WITH JAMES GILL • CHRIS JACOBS

WAIT UNTIL DARK
THE SPINE CHILLING THRILLER BY
FREDERICK KNOTT

Directed by TONY CRAVEN Produced by DEREK NIMMO Edited by TERRY PARSONS Music by ALLAN MILLER
Lighting by BUNFORD

OCTOBER 25 - 28, 1986 AT ALBADIYA ROOM.
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Juvenile diplomacy

WASHINGTON'S and Moscow's tit-for-tat expulsion of each other's diplomats is most regrettable. At the rate the expulsions and the retaliatory expulsions is proceeding, very soon there would be no American or Soviet diplomats left in either capital.

This sort of diplomatic behaviour on the part of Americans and Soviets is not befitting of relations between superpowers, and one would have thought that such a juvenile diplomacy is also not conducive to improved international relations among world nations generally. But what is perhaps more ominous is the fact that the latest Soviet-American expulsions are taking place in the wake of the Iceland summit where considerable progress seems to have been made between Messrs. Reagan and Gorbachev. Although no formal agreements were reached between the two leaders, important compromises were nevertheless struck, and hopes have been high that much more could be built on after the Reykjavik meeting.

It is often heard that within any government, there is another inner government which may or may not act in harmony with the former. Such inner governments often have their own vested interests which may make them act in a manner which is contrary to the declared policy of the formal government. What one may be afraid of, in the context of the escalation in the expulsions of Soviet and American diplomats, is that the presumed inner government in either country is not pleased with the momentum of goodwill which was generated by the Iceland summit and that it is trying hard to undermine all efforts at cooperation and understanding between Moscow and Washington.

The nations of the world have a great interest in building on the positive aspects of the Iceland summit, and they have every right to ask the two superpowers to act more responsibly towards each other and in turn more responsibly towards the rest of mankind.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Yearning for peace

THE Babel Mandeb symposium, which opened here yesterday, is one of the most important meetings organised in Amman recently because it underlines the importance of this strait at the entrance of the Red Sea for the Arab Nation. In addressing the opening session, Prince Hassan pointed out this fact and also referred to the ongoing conflicts around this important zone. He said that it was because this zone was of strategic importance to the superpowers and other major nations of the world that conflicts among small states in the region are being waged fuelled by rivalries of external forces influencing the region. Prince Hassan pointed to this rivalry as the cause of the continued conflicts and tension, and urged the superpowers to cease intervention, or else help the countries of the region to cooperate together for achieving progress and development. He said the Arab-Israeli conflict and the wars in Lebanon and Iraq, as well as the ongoing fighting in Eritrea and southern Sudan were all the result of attempts on the part of the big powers to impose their domination and hegemony over the region. Prince Hassan also blamed the colonialist powers for the many ills which this region suffer from and the disputes among the different states in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East. Prince Hassan's speech to the delegates was comprehensive and covered all issues of common concern to the participating countries. The interest of the Red Sea littoral states in attending the meeting reflects their concern over the future of their region, and a determination to find effective means of avoiding further conflicts and live in peace.

Al Dustour: A timely call

THE Babel Mandeb and the Red Sea are strategic zones, and over the years they have attracted major world nations to them, triggering a rivalry among these powers and creating disputes and regional conflicts among the smaller states in the two regions. This fact was emphasised by Prince Hassan in an address to the Babel Mandeb symposium which opened in Amman yesterday. Prince Hassan said it was because of the increasing importance of these two regions for world trade that superpower rivalry has recently increased, and regional conflicts broke out. The current attempts on the parts of big powers to intervene in this region are perhaps a continuation of the old colonialist policies adopted by major world nations, and are bound to fuel the conflicts and the small wars in different parts of the Mediterranean and Red Seas. Prince Hassan pointed out that Arab security was being threatened with the presence of Israel's aggressive policies in the region, and by the ongoing wars in Eritrea, the Horn of Africa and the separatist movement in southern Sudan. He said Iran's threats to the Arab Nation in the Gulf and the continuing civil strife in Lebanon also pose a grave danger to the Arab Nation and its future. For this reason, Prince Hassan urged the superpowers to stop intervening in the region's affairs and instead to help its countries to cooperate and live in peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Emphasis on South-South ties

THE Sino-Arab dialogue which ended in Amman a few days ago was one among countries of the South — those classified as poor nations of the world. The topics discussed by the delegates and the views exchanged at the meeting reflected the desire on the part of these nations to embark on a course of cooperation for their mutual benefit. The people of the North, particularly the European countries, have come together and formed the European Community, to promote cooperation and coordination in economic and even political strategies vis-a-vis the rest of the world. The South-South dialogue, which of course does not wish to compete with the North, is mainly aimed at promoting cooperation among the poorer nations of the world for their mutual benefit in the economic and political fields. As Prince Hassan pointed out, the Chinese and the Arabs have had 13 centuries of progressive relationship, and this is cause enough to urge both sides to forge further means for promoting this relationship still further. Prince Hassan has shown keen interest in promoting this relationship by urging both sides to continue dialogues and meetings and proposed the establishment of a specialised centre for economic studies, benefiting the Chinese and the Arabs alike. Through such a centre and through coordination and cooperation the people of the South can help each other achieve further progress and prosperity for themselves and other world nations.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Better tidings in the offing for Mideast?

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — One of the strangest aspects of the recent Iceland summit between the United States and the Soviet Union was the fact that at the same time President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev were getting ready for Iceland, high officials of the United States and the Soviet Union were meeting with their Chinese counterparts in Peking!

The Iceland summit, on the surface, appeared to have produced no agreement. Yet all the signs indicate that, sooner or later, an arms control agreement will be reached between the United States and the Soviet Union. One of the most important of those signs are the three-sided meetings that involve not just the United States and the Soviet Union, but China as well.

Before the end of this year a book of mine on the foreign policies of the Nixon period will appear. Nixon himself has been re-emerging in the public light. But, more significantly, more and more observers of the Washington scene agree that he even now exercises major influence on the Reagan administration. And most significantly the policies he pursued during his presidency (1969-1974) still are the foundation of much U.S. policy at the present time.

I argue in that book that the well-known detente between the United States and the Soviet Union at that time was based on a three-sided set of agreements between the two superpowers and China as well. The Soviets and the Chinese engaged in a small war in March 1969. Hatred between them was intense. Millions of soldiers faced each other all along the 6000-kilometre border between them. And the Americans were still caught in the bloody Vietnam war which always threatened to involve China. Yet in 1972 when Nixon visited both China and the Soviet Union, detente arose between the

United States and the Soviet Union, the United States and China began their long march to the informal alliance that links them now, and tensions eased between the Soviets and the Chinese.

The understandings between the three powers were three-sided: the U.S. and the Soviets agreed not to construct anti-ballistic missile systems; the United States agreed to withdraw from the Vietnam war; and the Chinese agreed to slow down their nuclear weapons build-up.

This time two high Soviet and American officials were in Peking. The Soviets sent one of their highest ranking foreign office officials, Igor Rogachev. The Americans sent Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger. The Chinese defence minister announced American warships would visit Chinese ports. The Chinese Foreign Ministry hoped for better Chinese-Soviet relations in view of Gorbachev's offers made last July. All this suggests a three-sided set of understandings is emerging now much as they did fifteen years ago.

Clearly these understandings will have a major impact on the world. And they will definitely affect the Middle East as well. It is by now evident that Washington and Moscow are beginning to talk together on the Middle East and possibly even work together to settle things down. The Chinese role is less important and more obscure. Yet since the beginning of this year, China has been furnishing arms to Iran.

During the Nixon years, relations between Iran and China were close. At the same time, Iran and Saudi Arabia worked closely together in OPEC. China has long been a supporter of the Palestinian cause. During the Nixon years, U.S. ties with the Arab and Muslim World improved. Could we now be seeing a return to those

diplomatic patterns in the Middle East which prevailed during the Nixon period?

There are four on-going Middle Eastern crises: (1) the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis, (2) the civil war in Lebanon, (3) Iran-Iraq war, and (4) the struggle between Afghan fighters and Soviet soldiers. How can new bilateral or triangular agreements among the two or three great powers affect these crises?

One effect may already be visible: the new spirit of cooperation in OPEC. For the first time in years, Saudi Arabia and Iran are cooperating to limit production and bring oil prices back up to \$17-\$19 a barrel. For the first time too, non-OPEC producers, chiefly Britain, appear to be supporting this effort. And, since China is becoming a major oil exporting nation, the fact of Chinese support too is significant (shortly after the initial OPEC agreement was reached, the Iranian oil minister went to China to solicit support).

Translated into political terms, this means that all three great powers are showing their strong will that the Iran-Iraq war be terminated, and they seem willing to make some concessions to the Iranian point of view.

At the same time, some progress seems to have been made on getting the Soviets to agree to leave Afghanistan. It is therefore possible that in the weeks and months ahead, we might first see some progress in resolving Middle Eastern crises in regard to crises no. (3) and (4). Of course, there still is the matter of the threatened Iranian offensive which American envoy Richard Murphy has warned about in recent testimony to Congress. But we shall have to wait and see what happens.



Aquino seeks to build moderate power centre to ward off extremists

By Robert H. Reid
The Associated Press

MANILA — President Corason Aquino is turning to the church, the business community and the middle and upper classes for support against the left and right in her polarised nation.

The strategy appears designed to recapture the spirit of sacrifice, idealism and national unity that swelled during February's "people power revolution" against President Ferdinand E. Marcos but now seems to be slipping away.

"For the nation to survive, the middle forces must take the initiative — the private sector, the church, the middle and upper classes — and outdistance the counter-forces of anger and despair," she said during speeches last week in the provincial cities of Bacolod and Iloilo.

The remarks spell out what she believes it will take to fulfill the dream of national revival. And they underscore her strategy of remaining aloof from party bickering, offering reconciliation to disaffected elements and of shunning pressure for radical transformation of Philippine society.

Her strongest card remains her widespread popularity among ordinary Filipinos. Millions of people still see her as the courageous housewife who swept away the Marcos tyranny and saved Philippine democracy.

Wherever she goes, Mrs. Aquino attracts large crowds.

Their size and enthusiasm clearly surpass those of crowds drawn by her chief cabinet rival, Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, or by Marcos loyalists, who faithfully stage rallies here every Sunday before steadily diminishing crowds.

Her attempt to muster a new alignment, mostly from privileged groups in society, comes as the coalition that thrust her to power shows signs of breaking up in a maelstrom of personal rivalry and petty politics.

Enrile, who delivered the army to her during the February uprising, has been openly critical of her peace policy towards Communist insurgents and has questioned her mandate to govern.

Sources close to Mrs. Aquino, speaking on condition they not be identified, say her supporters hope to counter Enrile's influence in the army by systematically cultivating and promoting senior officers loyal to the president.

Meanwhile, other cracks are emerging as Philippine parties prepare for next year's regional and local elections. The six coalition parties plan to field their own candidates in those elections.

Leaders of the various groups openly accuse the others of seeking to improve their positions at the expense of coalition unity.

"There are those who feel that after having been appointed to positions of power in the new government, they no longer need UNIDO (the United Democratic

Opposition)," vice-President Salvador Laurel, leader of the UNIDO party, complained last week.

UNIDO, originally a grouping of 12 small parties opposed to Marcos, and other opposition forces rallied around Mrs. Aquino to create an Aquino-Laurel ticket to oppose Marcos in the Feb. 7 presidential elections that preceded the revolt. Laurel contends UNIDO is still a political force.

As jockeying for power within the ruling coalition continues, both Communist and Muslim insurgents are exploiting the disarray to strengthen their positions.

With the end to the press controls of the Marcos era, the Communist-backed National Democratic Front and the rebel New People's Army are using Philippine and foreign news media to present views to the public.

On the southern island of Mindanao, both the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front and the autonomy-minded Moro Islamic Liberation Front are accelerating campaigns for support among the country's five million-member Muslim community.

In her effort to enlist "middle forces," Mrs. Aquino turned last week to the Roman Catholic church to arrange her first meeting with Communist rebels. It was held Friday in Iloilo City.

She has urged local bishops throughout Asia's only Christian

country to use their contacts with rebels to help peace negotiations. Western diplomats believe this strategy offers more hope for progress than national talks begun last August with the National Democratic Front.

Mrs. Aquino's overtures to the middle and upper classes underscore her belief that economic salvation lies in developing competitive industries and not in radical socialisation, government bailouts or foreign aid.

Her hope is that prosperity will trickle down to disadvantaged classes and that improvements in their lot will, in time, reduce the appeal of doctrinaire Marxists.

She has sought foreign investment despite widespread criticism from the left over perceived foreign domination of the Philippine economy.

She also has warned industry and agriculture not to expect wholesale subsidising of economically weak enterprises, such as sugar, as was common in the Marcos era.

Mrs. Aquino, who comes from a wealthy land-owning family, has shunned leftist calls for the wholesale breakup of huge estates.

But last week, she offered impoverished peasants on Negros Island a modest 10,000 hectares (24,700 acres) of land already held by banks after foreclosures and endorsed a local scheme for voluntary redistribution of excess holdings of large estates.

Reagan influence in Congress seen waning next year

By Michael Posner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Reagan won tough victories in Congress on many of his top priorities this year, but lawmakers say his influence will drop sharply in the next Congress as his presidency enters its final two years.

Congress, which adjourned this weekend after a watershed session in which it disposed of most of Reagan's agenda, enacted a landmark revision of income tax laws that Reagan had made his top domestic priority.

It also gave a go-ahead — but less money than Reagan had sought — for his controversial "Star Wars" defence system, and renewed military aid after a two-year lapse for U.S.-backed guerrillas fighting the leftist government in Nicaragua.

But lawmakers now on the campaign trail for the Nov. 4 elections say the new Congress convening in January will display more independence as Reagan enters the two-year "lame duck" period before the 1988 presidential election, in which he cannot succeed himself.

In fact evidence of Reagan's waning influence was

demonstrated last month when most senators of his own Republican Party joined opposition Democrats to override his veto of economic sanctions against South Africa's apartheid policy of racial segregation.

For the second year in a row Congress slashed Reagan's military spending request. The \$290 billion defence budget approved for 1987 is \$30 billion less than Reagan wanted and, when adjusted for inflation, gives the Pentagon less buying power than it has had this year.

Reagan's legislative agenda for next year looks limited and lawmakers say the congressional focus will shift to reducing the huge government debt and a massive trade deficit that many see as the paramount issues facing the country.

In addition, opposition Democrats plan to step up demands for arms control, an issue gathering momentum since the Iceland summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev broke down over deployment of the "Star Wars" space missile system.

While Reagan remains immensely popular, his Republican congressional allies are displaying more independence as they campaign for reelection in

the 100th two-year Congress.

All 435 seats of the Democratic-controlled House and 34 of the 100 seats in the Republican-led Senate are at stake in the congressional elections on Nov. 4.

The House seems sure to remain an opposition Democratic stronghold, but the Republicans are in danger of losing command of the Senate they grabbed for the first time in 26 years in Reagan's landslide election in 1980.

Republicans hold a slim 53-to-47 edge in the Senate. The current House count is 253 Democrats, 180 Republicans and two vacancies.

Democratic control of the Senate over the next two years would further limit Reagan's leverage with the legislature.

In a high point for Reagan, who has pressed repeatedly for lower tax rates, Congress this year approved the most sweeping tax law changes since World War II when it agreed to wipe out many tax benefits for business and the wealthy while reducing overall tax rates.

As for publicity gains from the Iceland summit, which led to a public rallying behind Reagan, Democratic legislators saw their

chances for development much.

"The big issues in every mid-term election are bread and butter," Democratic House Speaker Thomas (Tip) O'Neill told reporters recently. "When they go to vote, the people will leave the flesh Gordon (arms control) stuff to the engineers. They will vote their pocketbooks."

A recent New York Times poll seemed to support that view.

It found that only 12 per cent of Americans say the summit will influence their voting. Of those who have switched sides, just as many said they will vote Democratic as Republican.

Democratic Chairman Kirk also predicts his party will add up to a dozen seats to its 73-seat majority in the House.

With control of that body in little doubt, attention there has focused on isolated celebrity races including the bid of Robert Kennedy's son Joseph and daughter Kathleen Kennedy Townsend for House seats from Massachusetts and Maryland.

In the governors' category, Democrats currently hold 27 of the 36 positions on the ballots but are hampered by the retirement of

Machel death latest in series of reverses for Mozambique

By Andrew Torchia
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — President Samora Machel's death is the latest of several reverses Mozambique has suffered since gaining independence from Portugal 11 years ago.

For the black-ruled states of southern Africa, it could delay efforts towards self-alignment and tactics in a regional confrontation with their powerful white-ruled neighbour, South Africa.

It takes from Africa another soldier-president who was one of the few remaining leaders linked to the anti-colonial struggle that spread across the continent in the 1960s.

Machel's death also is a loss for the West. His commitment to pro-Soviet Marxism "did not prevent him from seeking to involve the West increasingly in solving Mozambique's serious economic problems."

Mozambicans appeared never to lose personal trust in their magnetic leader, no matter how heavy the burden of national crises. "It is very difficult to substitute for a man like Machel, but we do have a leadership," said Teodomo de Vasconcelos, of state-run Mozambique Radio.

The ruling Frelimo party is not expected to start the formal process of choosing a successor until after the funeral, which probably will be next week.

Premier Mario Machungo and Marcelino dos Santos, secretary of the permanent commission of parliament and the party's number two man, were expected to share decisions during the interim.

Speculation about a successor focuses on Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano, 47, who was prime minister in a transitional government before independence and has been foreign minister.

Chissano was personally close to Machel, 53, and is regarded as a moderate.

Other possibilities include Dos Santos, a staunch Marxist who once shared pre-independence leadership with Machel in a Frelimo triumvirate; Machungo, who performed well as governor of the food-producing province of Zambezia; Security Minister Sergio Vieira; and Defence Minister Alberto Joaquim Chipande.

Bryan Bench, an analyst for the Independent Institute for International Affairs in Johannesburg, said: "Now there must be some attempt to grapple with all of Mozambique's troubles. They can't muddle through much longer."

The leaders also sought ways to improve trade routes through Mozambique that could lessen dependence on South Africa, and to defend them from guerrilla attack.

The popular leader who had been in the forefront of the anti-Portuguese struggle is gone, and all the problems are out in the open.

Machel's government inherited largely undeveloped country. The Portuguese left at independence and took most of the administrative skills and business machinery with them.

Within months, Mozambique faced anti-Marxist rebellion. The insurgents were aided first by whites in Rhodesia, which now is black-ruled Zimbabwe, and then by South Africa.

Rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) crippled the Cahora Bassa dam, potentially the world's sixth-largest hydroelectric project, and their raids in the drought-stricken countryside contributed to a famine that affected millions of people.

The economy, decayed as exports of cashews, cotton and sugar fell. Experiments in state-run farms faltered and small farmers withheld produce because there were no consumer goods to buy with the profits.

Attempting to reverse the trend, Machel took his country into the Western-dominated International Monetary Fund and, last year, visited the United States during a campaign for Western investment.

He sought access to South African financing by agreeing in 1984 to end support for African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas fighting white domination.

That agreement has neared collapse recently, with the governments trading accusations of continued support for rebels in each other's countries.

South Africa threatened more cross-border military raids on countries harboring the ANC, which is headquartered in Zambia. It said this month that tens of thousands of Mozambican workers would be sent home to improve security, which could cost Mozambique \$90 million a year in lost remittances.

In recent weeks, Machel played a key role in negotiations among southern African countries to draw both Zaire and Malawi into regional attempts at stiffening resistance to South African pressures. The talks, held in several capitals, focused on ending alleged Malawian support for the Mozambican rebels and support by Zaire for anti-Marxist rebels in Angola.

The leaders also sought ways to improve trade routes through Mozambique that could lessen dependence on South Africa, and to defend them from guerrilla attack.

LETTERS

A little reeducation

To the Editor:
NEAR the place I work there are always some taxis waiting in line to take passengers. Of course it is very convenient for those who want to use a taxi instead of waiting on the street. Just wave your hand and the taxi is right behind you.

But some of the drivers misbehave. If you want to travel only a short distance they could be very rude and start cursing. When you reach your destination and do not have the exact change in coins, they don't bother to return the change. With foreigners, some of them try to extract more fare, sometimes double or triple, by taking the longest route. It really gives a very bad first impression of the society.

Of course, I am not blaming all taxi drivers; but some of them do paint a bad image and mar the reputation of all. As a Chinese saying goes "a small piece of cockroach spoils the whole pot of rice." I sincerely hope that the people concerned would do something to reeducate these unruly taxi drivers to behave properly and decently.

Fai Fei El Hinn
Tara Hotel

Population explosion poses nightmares to Egypt's urban planners

Egypt is building many new towns but the country's population explosion means that even all these settlements are not enough. Tony Walker explains the planners' headaches.

CAIRO — Egypt's population explosion is threatening to swamp an ambitious new cities programme designed to relieve pressures on existing urban centres. The new towns are planned to accommodate an extra 5 million people by the year 2000 but, in the face of an accelerating birth rate, their impact on urban overcrowding is likely to be only marginal.

Recent official figures indicated Egypt's population had exceeded 50 million and that one million was to be added to the total every eight months. The rate of population increase is now about three per cent compared with a previously estimated 2.7 per cent.

The population is expected to reach 70 million to 80 million by the end of the century with numbers in Cairo perhaps reaching 20 million. These are the sort of figures likely to give Egypt's planners nightmares as they grapple with problems of providing sufficient housing and services for numbers which will double in the last quarter of this century.

A recent World Bank study, based on an optimistic estimate of Egypt's population reaching 66 million by the year 2000 at a rate of increase of 2.4 per cent, reported that planned improvements in urban services are "woefully inadequate to meet minimum service levels desired for Egypt's population."

The World Bank is dubious about Egyptian claims that nine planned new cities and satellite towns, plus the development of outlying regions, such as the Sinai, will ease urban pressures. "Even if implemented as planned, the free-standing new communities and remote areas will accommodate only a very small part (4 per cent) of the urban increment," it says.

"There is no escape from improving the functioning of these existing cities (Cairo and Alexandria) by strengthening their urban infrastructure and providing for their growth in efficient ways," Egyptian planners recognise the

problem of population explosion but, threatened by a phenomenon they can do little about because of religious pressures — the Islamic trend is hostile to the birth control programme — they take refuge in optimistic statements about the benefits of a larger workforce.

"In the last five years, we have created places to accommodate 1,000 factories, plus accommodation for workers and facilities such as schools and services," said Mahmoud Nabih Al Manskawi, deputy head of the New Urban Communities Authority. "I think this is a considerable contribution to solving the problem. On the other hand, I'm not afraid of the population increase. I'm more concerned about production itself."

At 10 Ramadan, the most advanced of the new cities, located in the desert about 30 kilometres from Cairo towards the Suez Canal, real progress has been made in developing an infrastructure and attracting new industries.

Ahmad Aziz Helmi, head of administration at 10 Ramadan, says 145 factories are in

production, several of them joint ventures involving foreign companies. One hundred more are expected to go into production in the next six months and another 200 enterprises are conducting feasibility studies.

Many of these factories are small, but the response has exceeded expectations. Businessmen have seized opportunities at 10 Ramadan where tax incentives are available under various laws aimed at encouraging foreign and local investment.

Another reason for the good response to 10 Ramadan is that Egypt's cities are so overcrowded that little land is available for factories. Hard-currency shortages and restrictions on imports of consumer items are also encouraging investors into manufacturing for the large local market.

Less successful has been 10 Ramadan's attempt to encourage private sector development of housing estates for workers. About 15,000 employees and their families are now living in the city, well short of a target this year of 50,000. By the year of 2000 the

aim is to have 500,000 people living in the new desert town.

Other planned new cities, towns and estates include Sadat City between Cairo and Alexandria where several government ministries will be located, Al Ameria near Alexandria, 15 May near Cairo and Damietta on the Mediterranean between Port Said and Alexandria.

The New Urban Communities Authority estimates total projected cost of the programme up to the year 2000 at 5.8 billion Egyptian pounds (\$4.3 billion). Spending has reached 1.5 billion pounds by last year.

The World Bank, in its recent study, identified various shortcomings of the new communities programme. These included:

— Development costs are high, relative to the numbers absorbed.

— The level of subsidies is much too high because of cheaply priced land, the high share of community facilities in total investments, too low densities, high standards for social infrastructure and housing — up to four times higher than at other locations — and heavy interest subsidies for housing.

Managerial problems, such as the diversions of qualified technical personnel into the new communities programme from Cairo and Alexandria, the high costs of supervising contractors, and the scarcity of skilled construction workers.

"New communities and remote areas are allocated too many resources in the five-year plan," said the World Bank. "Their development should be slowed and redirected."

"The free-standing towns such as Ramadan are too far from metropolitan areas and are too high-cost relative to the population served. Spending on the new communities should be slowed and redirected to allocate more to towns close to existing cities (such as 15 May)."

Officials of the new communities programme vigorously defend it against this sort of criticism. "I don't think we can cope with population increases without implementing such a programme," said Mr. Manskawi. "This is the only way to accommodate our population in the future." — Financial Times news feature.

Randa Habiba

Let's too pitch in

EARLIER THIS week the prime minister, Mr. Zaid Rifal, said in a dinner lecture that Jordan was finding it difficult to raise funds from outside to support the Kingdom's development programmes. This case is no different than many other Third World countries, but there is a favourable aspect of the Jordanian society that could help our national needs.

The prime minister's call on Jordanian banks to shoulder a part of the responsibility to raise funds to finance our national development was very timely and appropriate. But we should not leave it at that and hope that the banks will do their part and everything will be taken care of.

No-one with a basic knowledge of the Jordanian society needs any pointer to the fact there is a lot of Jordanian controlled money within and outside the country. The nice, beautiful but expensive villas and buildings that dot Amman's skyline are a very firm indicator of the wealth that poured into the country during the oil boom in the Gulf and the heydays of international trade linked to Gulf economies.

For many Jordanians a beautiful and expensive house represents a secured investment. For those who could spare money after investing in houses, the next avenue for quick profits was deposits with banks and moneychangers. While I do not want to refer here to deposits in banks, the issue of investing money with moneychangers does raise the question of the wisdom of continuing to do so in the wake of not-so-good signals that it may not be a good investment anymore. That also brings up a thought of whether the amount of money so invested could be used for better purposes to benefit the national economy.

I would not venture into estimating how much money is tied down with investments in proposed buildings or moneychangers, but I do know one thing; this could be of great help to the national economy at this vital time of need.

It is not as if depositors are expected to contribute to the national treasury in terms of cash deposits. On the contrary, the money could go a long way in setting up small and medium-scale productive industries in the consumer sector. Returns are of course guaranteed since Jordan lacks a million types of small industries and precious foreign exchange is wasted in imports. Why does not someone with a more economic-oriented mind than me consider the possibilities of a state-guided framework for small and medium-scale industries, which could not only bring in good returns and boost the internal economy but also provide jobs to thousands?

Outside world closing in on Amazon Indians

By Susana Hayward
The Associated Press

SAO JOAO DO ARAGUAIA, Brazil — A small tribe of Indians living on a remote stretch of Amazon jungle feel the outside world closing in.

White farmers squat on their land and railroad tracks scar their lush green countryside.

The Gaviões are a once-nomadic tribe which settled in the late 1920s on this land 1,900 miles north of Rio de Janeiro. In 1980, the government made 154,375 acres of Gavião land an indigenous area.

But a government land reform agency settled 50 white families on the southern tip of "Mae Maria" (Mother Mary) reservation the same year and now more than 200 squatter families occupy a quarter of the Gavião's land.

Chief Khrokren, leader of the 178 Gavião Indians, grudgingly accepts railroad and power lines because the tribe was financially compensated. But he insists that the government remove the squatters.

If it doesn't, Khrokren warns that his tribe will block the 900-kilometre government railroad that ferries iron ore to the coast. The ore, valued at \$500 million per year, is exported mainly to Japan.

"The white man has no respect for the Indian or our rights. We've lost our patience, and they've lost our trust," the chief said.

Khrokren is worried that the squatters will wear his tribe away from its ancient tradition and eventually destroy its Indian purity and culture.

Already, the chief says, Indian children watch too much television, don't show up at traditional ceremonies, and play soccer with greater zeal than they do folkloric games on the Mae Maria (Mother Mary) Indian reservation.

An estimated 5 million Indians lived in Brazil when it was discovered by the Portuguese in 1500. Most of the 200,000 remaining live in the vast Amazon jungle, not far from Brazil.

Modernisation and development are now reaching into the once-inaccessible jungle, and whites have invaded the land of about 31 tribes, said Romero Fica Filho, president of the

"Nothing is going to be done," said Jose Ferreira Campos Jr., head of FUNAI in the Gavião zone. "If I were the Indians, I would have blocked the railroad a long time ago."

Ferreira said the police stopped helping him evict squatters because of press criticism and church complaints about human rights violations.

Church groups have supported the squatters against the Indians. "Ferreira is a menace," said Paulo Tasso, a lawyer who works in the region with the Pastoral Land Commission, a church-backed nationwide organisation

Of farms, days and nights and life in a Chinese village

By Wendy S. Tai
National Geographic

DAI, Jiangsu, China — Gazing at the night sky, Dai Yunfang asks her guest, "Do you also have stars in America?"

"Yes, and we see the same stars," the guest replies.

"Do you see the same moon?" she asks.

Visitors from the United States provoke questions that reveal the isolation in China's countryside. At 21, Yunfang seldom has ventured beyond 10 miles from her home in the ancestral Dai village in southern Jiangsu province. And it is unlikely that her world will change much for the rest of her life.

Her prospect is not unusual for rural youths who fail to pass exams for higher education. She and her younger brother, 17, finished junior high school, but failed to get into high school.

Few go to college

Their older brother, 20, is studying philosophy at Nanjing University. He is among the fewer than one per cent of Chinese youths nationwide who pass a series of competitive exams for college admission.

His future away from the back-breaking chores that dominate rural life is virtually assured. "I think it's quite good that I have one son out of the countryside," their father says. "It's really a shame for my daughter and younger son."

The younger son is spending a month in Shanghai, about 120 miles away, learning appliance

repair. He will return to live at home and work as an apprentice in a nearby repair shop.

Yunfang isn't bothered by the prospect of staying on the farm for life. She accepts it. Would she like to leave the fields and move to Shanghai? She replies, "What's so good about Shanghai? I don't know. It's a pointless question for China has an official residency system prohibiting unauthorised moves."

Her only aspiration is getting married next year to a tractor driver who lives with his family in an adjacent village less than a mile away. Following Chinese tradition, she will live with her husband's family. "But I'd like to come home often to help my mother company," she says. The idea of leaving her home makes her eyes swell with tears.

Yunfang looks much younger than her 21 years with her hair in bangs and pigtail. Her manner also feeds the little-girl image: she pouts when her fiancé teases her and gleefully claps her hands and jumps up and down when told she can stay home from work with the guest.

Chores at daybreak

Yet, her sense of responsibility is acute. At daybreak, when only silhouettes and animals' hunger cries fill the house, she is up helping with the chores. After spitting toothpaste out the front door, she picks up a short, bamboo-banded broom and sweeps the entire four-room concrete house, even the dirt-packed areas around the pens where the family raises three pigs, three goats, and 16 ducks.

With her long legs tucked awkwardly around a low stool, she stoops over, cleaver in hand, and begins mincing sweet-potato vines for pigs' feed. After mother's call, she sits down behind the limestone stove and feeds dried rice stalks to the fire as her mother cooks breakfast.

By 7:15 a.m., she wipes clean her black shoes, hops on the family's only bicycle, and rides the only road, paved with rocks, to town, where she will spend the next eight hours drawing patterns and distributing materials to fellow workers for cloth shoes.

The factory is among six one-room enterprises that have cropped up recently, with economic reform programmes. She works six days a week and earns \$16 a month, which she turns over to her parents.

Asked if she likes her job, she shakes her head. "It's so little money," she says softly. "Business isn't that good," and should the plant close, "I'd have to come back and farm. What can you do? That's the way it is."

During harvest or planting time, she stays home and helps with the one-acre land where the family grows rice, winter wheat, and vegetables. At night, she pulls a short-story magazine from under her grain-stuffed pillow and reads a few pages by candlelight before closing the mosquito net around her bamboo bed.

Her father, Dai Haorong, already is preoccupied with plans for her wedding next year and has started to save for what he expects will be a long list of gifts. "I don't know how much money I'll have to spend" to help them set up a



Smoking umbrella adds a touch of modernity to this scene of transport in the village of Dai, Jiangsu province. The peasant woman and child sit on dried rice stalks while the man, smiling in spite of his burdens, pushes them along a wheelbarrow-type cart (National Geographic photo)

household, he says. "They, of course, want everything."

No Shanghai amenities

Yunfang, standing nearby, giggles. The isolation has not made her or her family blind to the gap in living standards between urban and rural life in China. While the Dai village is only about 120 miles north west of Shanghai, one of the largest cities in the world, it might as well be a continent away.

There are no refrigerators, washing machines, or flush toilets — no running water. Electricity is sporadic, often coming on at 10 p.m., long after everyone is asleep.

There were no television sets a year ago; now four of the 100 families have black-and-white sets.

With a better life has come a taste for better and more things. Chinese urban and rural dwellers alike comment on newlyweds' rising expectations for elaborate weddings, complete with banquets and high-priced gifts.

After Yunfang has married, Haorong will begin saving for his younger son's marriage, which probably will require him to build a second storey on his house. With a higher standard of living in urban China, he explains, rural women also are raising their standards and are eager to find a

husband in the cities.

There's a popular saying that for a peasant to find a wife, his family must have "hai, lu, kong," meaning "sea, silk, and mid-air."

Haorong explains the phrase: "A relative overseas; the big six items of television, refrigerator, washer, bike, sewing machine, and electric fan; and a two-storey house that stands high in the air."

Having an overseas relative is the key to fulfilling the other two conditions, he says, because the relative can get scarce appliances and contribute toward a house.

"Life has improved, but our expenses also are higher," he says. "We have too many things we need to buy."

Opium conflict simmers in Golden Triangle

By Joseph de Rienzo
Reuters

THAI-BURMA BORDER — The golden spire of a tranquil Buddhist shrine caps a mist-shrouded mountain, surrounded by coils of barbed wire, concrete bunkers and batteries of mortars.

Fierce Wa tribesmen lay down their guns in a respite from their opium war to worship the full moon.

Not far away, one of their enemies, an officer of warlord Khun Sa, begs visitors to believe his commander "has nothing to do with drugs."

Beauty and violence live side-by-side in the lush mountains and valleys of the Golden Triangle where Khun Sa and his rebel armies roam one of the world's main drug-producing centres.

International narcotics officials say about 1,000 tonnes of opium is produced each year in this lawless corner of South East Asia where the roof of Thailand runs north into eastern Burma and Western Laos.

They do not know how much of it is refined into heroin for sale in Asia, Europe, Australia and the United States. But one estimate is to be "hundreds of millions of dollars worth."

Since 1940, drug profits have dictated the strange politics and economics of numerous ethnic

and political rebel groups living in the Golden Triangle beyond the authority of Rangoon, Bangkok and Vientiane.

The different groups have been fighting each other in shifting alliances since the 1960s to determine who controls how much of the drug and blackmarket smuggling networks which stretch north from the Thai border deep into the triangle.

Thai authorities say the latest war was launched this month by one of the most improbable alliances to date.

Burma Communist Party (BCP) guerrillas teamed up with the stocky Wa tribesmen and Chinese soldiers of Chiang Kai-Shek's nationalist army stranded here after Mao Tse-tung's Communists defeated them in 1949, they said.

The new alliance is challenging Shan rebels who control most of the 600 to 800 tonnes of opium Western narcotics officials estimate is obtained from poppies in Burma alone each year.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency says that Shan warlord Khun Sa is the top heroin trafficker in the Triangle.

So far Thai border patrol police say the alliance of a few hundred Wa fighters and more than 1,500 BCP rebels appears too weak to depose the Shan leader.

But the "challengers" have brought the opium war to within

easy mortar range of the idyllic village of Muang Teung, home to about 400 of the Shans, a minority group related to the Thais.

Muang Teung has closed its school and sent the pupils, who study in Shan, English, Thai and Chinese, to safer areas inside Burma or across to Thailand.

A teak temple on stilts in the middle of a rain-swollen, rust-red pond is deserted and few women are about as soldiers carrying U.S. and Soviet-made weapons patrol the town at midday.

High on a nearby peak stands the golden shrine amid barbed wire, trenches, a massive log guard post and in incomplete steel-reinforced concrete bunker.

Not even a monsoon downpour interrupts labourers hurrying to finish it before the expected attack comes.

Shan State Army (SSA) officer Sai Lat — "My name means sunshine" — is sure his soldiers will not yield an inch of territory.

He said there had been only one full day of fighting, on September 12, when five SSA fighters were killed. Both sides have about the same number of troops. Only occasional gunfire was heard at the border last week.

Thai border patrol police Colonel Viji Vechasit said, Wa tribesmen and the BCP are expected to attack Khun Sa's strongholds nearby, but he could not predict when.

After the cube, Rubik's Magic is unveiled

By David Storey
Reuters

BUDAPEST — For those whose wrists and patience survived the Rubik cube, a fiendish new challenge is now available — Rubik's Magic.

The Hungarian mathematician, designer and inventor Erno Rubik launched Magic at the Budapest trade fair on Friday hoping to sweep the world with another puzzle craze.

Like the cube, the challenge of Magic is to manipulate shapes from chaos into a pattern.

Both employ an ingenious and secret mechanism that defies immediate understanding.

Magic consists of eight flat sections joined by mysteriously movable hinges of plastic filament, which, instead of having just one angle, have 45.

The aim is to form a pattern of interlocking rings from the apparent confusion of brightly-coloured arcs on the sections.

The puzzle can be bent into unexpected three-dimensional shapes as the parts are twisted and broken from each other.

"It's the same idea as the cube: basic puzzle, part provocation to experiment, to see what you can make of it," Rubik

said. He told Reuters that the creation of order out of confusion was not the only important element of the puzzle.

"When you are working to find a solution you create different kinds of three-dimensional forms," he said.

The 42-year-old inventor teaches at Budapest's Academy of Design and Crafts.

Although Magic has a more elaborate appearance than the cube, which sold in millions, Rubik says it still depends on a simple idea.

Both puzzles sprang from Rubik's background of studying sculpture, architecture and design, as well as a special talent for mathematical manipulation.

A small, gentle-looking man, Rubik gets pleasure not just from the fiendish games he creates but their world-wide impact.

He has learnt hard business lessons from his experiences with the cube, with pirate companies cashing in on the device.

The new puzzle has been patented in 40 countries and already distributed to marketing points in the United States and Europe ready for sale next month.

The U.S. firm licensed to market the cube was surprised by its extraordinary success in 1980



Erno Rubik shows off his new mind game

and 1981 and unable to match the demand.

The new puzzle is being made in the Chinese city of Canton, with a 2,000-strong work force set up this year.

Hungary's Communist government, whose reform programme encourages individual enterprise like Rubik's, will benefit by at least \$5 million from the sales, one of his aides said.

The biggest will come through the involvement of a state trading firm, a standard requirement for all Hungary's foreign transactions, including licences.

Rubik will be allowed to keep part of his share in hard currency, a rare deal for citizens of East European states.

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Mets offense comes alive, whipping Red Sox 7-1

BOSTON (AP) — The real New York Mets finally showed up for the World Series.

"We had something to prove to ourselves, to the Boston Red Sox and the rest of baseball," Lenny Dykstra said. "We didn't win 108 games for nothing."

In game 3 Tuesday night, the Mets demonstrated how they did it. Dykstra homered on the game's third pitch, sending New York to a 7-1 romp and its first victory after two humbling losses at home.

"Our backs weren't against the wall, but we were getting very close," said Bob Ojeda, who limited his ex-teammates to one run on five hits in seven innings. Ojeda prevented the Mets from falling into a 3-0 hole, a predicament no team has ever been able to overcome in the World Series.

Ojeda outpitched Dennis "Oil Can" Boyd, who had said during a Monday workout that he would "master the Mets."

"I definitely read it," Dykstra said after going 4-for-5. "I think the only one who got mastered tonight was him."

"They got me tonight," Boyd admitted.

The Mets, batting .190 in the postseason entering the game, had cancelled a planned workout on Monday. Maybe the extra rest helped. They scored four times in the first inning — aided by a blown Boston rundown. That was one more run than they scored in the first two games combined. They finished with 13 hits, also one more than games 1 and 2 together.

"The big key was to start out strong offensively," Mets manager Davey Johnson said.

Instead, Dykstra lifted a 1-1 pitch into the right-field seats. This time, there was no wild welcoming party at home plate and there was no big celebration in the dugout — something the Mets revealed in after regular-season home runs.

"We woke ourselves up a bit," Dykstra said.

If the first series leadoff homer since Davey Lopes in 1978 was the wakeup, then the Mets went to work.

Gary Carter lined a RBI double and, after Boston blew a rundown with a pair of misplays which

allowed two Mets to escape on the bases, designated-hitter Danny Heep singled in two more runs. It was the first game for the DH in this series, and Heep made it worthwhile to the National League champions.

Carter added a two-run single in the seventh and Ray Knight doubled home a run in the eighth.

That was more than enough for Ojeda. His off-speed pitches kept the Red Sox off-balance all night and belied the reputation that he did not feel comfortable at Fenway Park.

"He was a little off, a little on," said Bill Buckner, hitless in three at-bats against Ojeda. "He doesn't blow you away, but he gets you out."

The Mets now hope Ron Darling can do the same in game 4. Darling, who lost the opener despite allowing only three hits and an unearned run in seven innings, will oppose Al Nipper.

Nipper, 10-12, with a 5.38 earned run average, has not pitched since Oct. 4 in the final week of the regular season. The Mets, while not directly saying so, are looking forward to facing the inconsistent right-hander.

Raft race to be held at Dead Sea

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Six teams will race on Friday along the Dead Sea in the first ever raft race in Jordan, which is being sponsored by the Marriott Hotel in Amman.

All proceeds from the race will be donated to the Al Hussein Society for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, according to Hailie Aguilera, general manager of the Amman Marriott.

The "fun raft race" will begin at 12:00 at the Dead Sea rest house. Mr. Aguilera told a press conference that he hopes this new activity can be held yearly.

The six teams will be: His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah and crew, Sharifa Rajah's crew, the Amman Marriott Hotel crew, the Danish Jordanian Dairy crew, the British Airways team, and the Ata Ali team.

On the technical side of the race, Mr. Aguilera said eligible rafts to the contest should be hand-constructed from local materials. The rafts should be designed only for fun, Mr. Aguilera said.

Iran considers boycotting Seoul Olympics

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's top sports official has suggested Tehran should consider boycotting the 1988 summer Olympics in Seoul following the defection of four Iranian athletes during this month's Asian Games. Ettelaat newspaper reported Wednesday.

"We have announced that we will not boycott the Seoul Olympics... but we definitely need a reappraisal of what happened to four of our weightlifters there," sports organization head Ahmad Dargahi said in an interview.

The weightlifters split from a group of Iranian athletes at Seoul Airport earlier this month and took refuge in the Iraqi consulate.

Dargahi, who is also deputy prime minister, said since then Iran had cancelled several foreign tours by Iranian teams because "we feel the enemies of revolution have, with the plots they hatch, robbed our athletes and teams of security."

Cyprus' Apol leaves Besiktas waiting

ISTANBUL (R) — Players and fans were there, the referee was ready and TV cameras were rolling — but Istanbul club Besiktas were left without opponents Wednesday in its European Soccer Cup second round tie.

The whole affair was a political

football from the moment the draw was announced on Oct. 3.

Apol Nicosia pulled out on Sunday under pressure from the government of the Cyprus Republic, which has had no diplomatic relations with Turkey since Ankara's 1974 military intervention on the island.

Besiktas turned out at the city's Ali Sami Yen Stadium to show officials of the European Soccer Union (UEFA) that it was ready to play the tie. Even some 5,000 cheering fans turned up knowing there would be no game. Referee Werner Fockler of West Germany and his linesmen were also on hand.

The Turkish TV commentator just interviewed the Besiktas players, officials and UEFA representatives — then signed off.

UEFA delegate Erik Hyblstrup of Denmark, asked whether the second leg can now be played, told reporters: "We know that the time

of kickoff was informed to the visiting team and that UEFA had asked it to come and play the game and so it has forfeited. But I leave it to UEFA to take the consequences."

UEFA, which on Monday said in a statement the ties must take place, now has to decide how to deal with the Cypriot side. It apparently faces a big fine for failing to show up.

The Turkish government seemingly had few reservations about the match and, with the Turkish Soccer Federation, soon gave the go-ahead, leaving the ball in the Apol court.

But Apol withdrew on Sunday, alleging Besiktas had failed to meet an agreement to promise to enter Cyprus "by a legal port" and accept Apol's choice of hotel for the second leg due to be played on Nov. 5.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

England takes one-day match

LAWES, Queensland (R) — England's cricketers, fired by a thunderous century from Allan Lamb, pulled off the first win of their tour in a one-day match against South East Queensland Country Wednesday. Lamb, included at the last minute to replace the injured Bill Athey, marked his first appearance by lashing an unbeaten 111 in 99 deliveries to spur England to victory by 58 runs in the 50 overs match.

Andervang leads Himalayan rally

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The powerful Ford RS 200 from Britain led the seventh Himalayan Car Rally Wednesday on the first leg of the treacherous 2,840-kilometre race through the world's tallest mountain range. Vice President R. Venkataraman flagged off the Ford entry piloted by Euro Cup Champion Stig Andervang, who is favoured to win the title. This is the last rally for the Ford RS 200 or "fiend of the roads," which is being banned from races because of its immense power.

Karpov faces Korchnoi

TILBURG, Netherlands (AP) — Former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union faced his arch enemy Viktor Korchnoi of Switzerland across the board in third-round play at the Tenth Annual Interpolis Chess Tournament Tuesday, but their encounter lacked much of the sparkle of the two's earlier duels.

Lendl, Becker, Edberg advance

TOKYO (AP) — Ivan Lendl, Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg, the top three seeds, advanced to the second round of the \$375,000 '86 Super Seiko Tennis Tournament with little difficulty Wednesday. Lendl trounced Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka 6-1, 6-1, Becker, from West Germany, beat American Matt Anger 6-3, 6-4 and Edberg, of Sweden, eliminated Jimmy Arias of the United States 6-2, 6-2.

Suharto to review sports policy

JAKARTA (R) — President Suharto has called for a major review of Indonesian sports policy following the country's poor showing at the Asian Games in South Korea. Indonesia's 204-member squad, one of the largest teams at the games, which ended this month, returned with only one gold medal and was ranked ninth in the medal tally compared with its sixth place in the 1982 Asian Games in India.

Egyptians to meet in semifinals

CAIRO (R) — Injury-free and back to winning ways, holder National of Cairo face the proven invincibility at home of Ismaili on Friday in the second leg of their all-Egyptian African Cup. Winners' Cup semi-final. National, whose blend of veterans and new blood has often put it in a class of its own, was held to a 0-0 draw in the first leg on Oct. 10 before a 45,000-strong crowd in Cairo.

Hungarian coach resigns

ANKARA (R) — Former Hungarian national team coach Kalman Meszoly has resigned from the Turkish soccer club Altay following a management decision to curb his authority after recent poor performances, a club official said Wednesday. Altay, based in the Aegean city of Izmir, is 13th in the 19-club First Division after eight games.

Defenders for America's Cup wrap up round 1

FREMANTLE, Australia (R) — The strength of the major syndicates was clearly defined when Australia's contenders to defend the America's Cup wrapped up their first round of racing Wednesday.

The opening series of the defence fleet gave good reason for optimism about the chances of successfully defending the Cup, and they also showed that the two small syndicates must make huge breakthroughs to come into contention.

On top of the standings is the Task Force Syndicate's Kookaburra III, which surprised many by beating both the Alan Bond Syndicate boats, but Australia IV lies only one point behind in second place.

The major syndicates' two second-ranked yachts fill the next place, and then, with performances that clearly place them in a second division, come the Sydney and South Australian

yachts. Wednesday there was barely a sniff of an upset as the yachts manoeuvred around the course in moderate breezes of 14 to 16 knots.

The hard-pressed crew of Australia III took one leg out of their superior, winning the top mark rounding by six seconds, but in a piece of nerveless sailing Australia IV came back to boldly take the inside overlap at the next mark.

From then on Colin Beashel took the boat that Alan Bond calls the "Green Aussie Fighting Machine" ahead by successively bigger margins at each mark to win by three minutes and seven seconds.

The result must satisfy Beashel, assuming the race between stabilisers was sailed in earnest. The crew work was clean, sails set smartly, and there could be few quarrels about the course chosen.

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

- 1 Ship
- 2 City on the Amazon
- 3 Off-shore
- 4 Wiggins
- 5 Bravery
- 6 Unsettled
- 7 In great disorder
- 8 Thought: prof.
- 9 Lostness
- 10 In the arms
- 11 Whirlwind
- 12 Pans
- 13 Drove down
- 14 Signifies
- 15 Connotation
- 16 Weld
- 17 Yemen port
- 18 Biblical trait
- 19 Biogical
- 20 Medieval
- 21 Stashed away
- 22 Raised
- 23 Move
- 24 Annoy
- 25 Author: Blanche
- 26 Former presidential candidate
- 27 Houston pros
- 28 Bow
- 29 Dealer in drygoods
- 30 Very jolly
- 31 Wyant of the West
- 32 John's wife
- 33 Actor Ray
- 34 Make jubilee
- 35 "The — is yet to be"
- 36 Tales
- 37 Platform
- 38 Facility
- 39 Western in a folk factory
- 40 Ingotous
- 41 Danish river
- 42 SFI
- 43 Declared to be true
- 44 One of three
- 45 — in (attack vigorously)
- 46 Commune in Belgium
- 47 Embellish
- 48 Tex. city
- 49 Meat items
- 50 Fork
- 51 Crooked
- 52 Goddess of the hearth
- 53 Electron tubes
- 54 Exiled king
- 55 Eastern ruler
- 56 Cuban dance
- 57 Supply weap.
- 58 com. and style
- 59 Dining-room pieces
- 60 Western in a folk factory
- 61 Ingotous
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- 83 Danish river
- 84 SFI
- 85 Declared to be true
- 86 One of three
- 87 — in (attack vigorously)

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN

- 1 Poem by Tennyson
- 2 Leather Peak
- 3 Maiden
- 4 One of three
- 5 — in (attack vigorously)
- 6 Commune in Belgium
- 7 Embellish
- 8 Tex. city
- 9 Meat items
- 10 Fork
- 11 Crooked
- 12 Goddess of the hearth
- 13 Electron tubes
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- 82 Dining-room pieces
- 83 Western in a folk factory
- 84 Ingotous
- 85 Danish river
- 86 SFI
- 87 Declared to be true
- 88 One of three
- 89 — in (attack vigorously)

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2. Dary Basheer El Sobail	El Nahidah	Owner	Mahmoud	54.5
3. Abdullah Hussein	Taliam	Owner	Mousa	54.5
4. Shahr Farhan	A. Nafai	Owner	Mousa	54.5
5. Mikdad Hassan I. Nhab	Jada	Owner	Ibrahim	53
6. Mashhour F.A. Jnaib	S. El Arab	Owner	Suliman	53
7. Ahmad Sadi Mhalel	El Muneb	Owner	Suliman	50
8. Aly Abdou Nefie	El Kashil	Owner	Yousef	50
9. Salman Suliman	Talla	Owner	Mwafak	50
10. Basil Yusel	Ghareeb	Owner	George	50
11. Ziad Abdou Nafie	Aneed	Owner	George	50
12. Rashid M. Bararak	Hisham	Owner	George	50
13. Saliman H. Nazari	M. Saliman	Owner	Fawaz	48.5
14. Khalid Faris	N. Zaid	Owner	Fawaz	48.5
15. Mohammed Nimr	Atal	Owner	A. Amrah	54.5

SECOND RACE 3.25 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Mohammad Khalil	Saad Hazim	Owner	Yousef	56
2. Mohammad Ahmad Kasim	Frajil	Owner	Mwafak	54.5
3. Mashhour F.A. Jnaib	N. El Sali	Owner	George	53
4. Ghalib A. Jaber & Badr	Wardih	Owner	A. Amrah	51.5
5. Mohammad A. El Naby	Makadeer	Owner	A. Jaber	50
6. Hamed Abdullah Jannary	S. Dely	Owner	Rashed	50
7. Khalil Haddadin	A. El Maha	Owner	Mostafa	50
8. Ghalib Haddadin	El Zaeem	Owner	George	50
9. Ghalib Haddadin	Nimrah	Owner	George	48.5
10. Samy Haddadin	Dorghani	Owner	George	50
11. Samy Haddadin	Hanan	Owner	George	48.5

THIRD RACE 3.50 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Mohammad Khalil	Dahis Omar	Owner	Yousef	56
2. Mohammad A. El Hady	Nassar	Owner	Mousa	56
3. Nafel Salim El Karys	Bahr	Owner	Mousa	56
4. Nafel Salim El Karys	Sabal	Owner	Mousa	51.5
5. Mohammad A. El Naby	H. Raied	Owner	A. Jaber	54.5
6. Qawash El Balkees	Mughdha	Owner	Suliman	54.5
7. Ziad Abdou Nafie	Anan	Owner	George	48.5
8. Mohammad Nafie	M. Samy	Owner	Rashed	54.5
9. Shihadin Atrah	Hanan	Owner	George	53
10. Subry Abdou Nafie	Sail Raad	Owner	George	50

FOURTH RACE 4.15 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Mishal El Faiez	Satta	Owner	Mousa	56
2. Mishal El Faiez	Nomas	Owner	George	50
3. Faisal Awwad El Faiez	K. El Mouk	Owner	Rashed	57
4. Saif El Din El Ijl	El Sarry	Owner	Ibrahim	53
5. Nimr El Rimoud	El Ghoul	Owner	Mahmoud	50
6. Ghalib Haddadin	Raad	Owner	George	50
7. Samy Haddadin	Sadeh	Owner	George	50
8. Fawaz El Shalan	Mdalah	Owner	Mostafa	48.5

FIFTH RACE 4.40 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 2200 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Nimr El Rimoud	Anael	Owner	Mahmoud	56
2. Nimr El Rimoud	Sahr	Owner	Mahmoud	56
3. Nimr El Rimoud	Shahrazad	Owner	Mahmoud	51.5
4. Faisal Awwad El Faiez	Shihanih	Owner	Ibrahim	57.5

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
5. Faisal Awwad El Faiez	Khalid	Owner	Rashed	51.5
6. Mishal El Faiez	El Zafir	Owner	Saad	55
7. Mishal El Faiez	A. El Tach	Owner	Mousa	53
8. Ghalib Haddadin	El Tamouh	Owner	George	52
9. Samy Haddadin	Wahed	Owner	George	50

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Cinema **PLAZA</**

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4345/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3912/17	Canadian dollars
	1.9800/10	West German marks
	2.2380/90	Dutch guilders
	1.6255/6265	Swiss francs
	41.10/15	Belgian francs
	6.4840/90	French francs
	1370/1371	Italian lire
	155.05/15	Japanese yen
	1.8275/8325	Swedish crowns
	7.2900/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.4575/4625	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	426.80/427.30	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Stocks closed quietly mixed as Wednesday morning's rises were mostly lost. Further consideration of the OPEC oil output agreement and a reluctance to do business ahead of "big bang" were the main factors, dealers said.

At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 index was unchanged at 1,591.2 after reaching a high of 1,599.2 Wednesday morning.

U.K. government bonds also fell back in the afternoon to show gains of 1/4 point after earlier 1/2 point advances. British money market interest rates reversed their earlier trend and returned to overnight levels while sterling continued quietly steady. ICI ended unchanged at 1,094 after 1,099.

Among leading shares, Blue Circle gained 5p to 605 after 611 on continuing bid speculation. Glaxo lost 7p to 940 while Grand Met fell 11p to 435 and P and O eased 2p to 503.

Hawker Siddeley slipped 32p to 415 after half year results showed pretax profits only £0.6 million up on the 71.5 million pretax in the same period last year.

Insurances held on to most of their gains despite running into light profit-taking around midday. Dealers said the shares rose partly on reports of an encouraging meeting between Royal Insurance and market analysts. The shares were further helped by a crop of good earnings reports from U.S. insurers.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCT. 24, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An excellent day and evening for whatever has to do with home conditions and expression of your charm. Enjoy your social, domestic and romantic activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Home affairs are important today, even if you have to be out on business. Be more concerned with savings.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) If you get together with friends you can gain those personal wishes that mean much to you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Do those things that will bring more beauty and charm into your life. Improve your business surroundings.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) If you contact important people with a smile you can easily gain favors that you need.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Become more introverted so that you can gain more of this world's goodies by thinking wisely.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Good friends can assist you in gaining some personal aim that means much to you. Learn to save more money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you dress nicely and go after your goals you can accomplish a great deal today. Commercialize your talents.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Making as many new contacts as possible that are worthwhile is wise at this time. Garner new data for work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try to be more emotional and please your mate more. This results in strong business ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A highly emotional partner has great ideas. These result in benefits that are important to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you schedule your activities wisely you can handle them properly and efficiently.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You want to enjoy recreation but be sure it can also prove profitable and add to your prestige.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one of those charming young persons who will have every ability to comprehend others. Be sure to give a fine education and slant it toward psychology so that the natural talents can become a life's work. Teach to be more objective.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCT. 23, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Much confusion can be present in your mind about another person. Don't judge this individual. Instead, get the facts and figures before making any comment.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You may get confused because a home tie is acting oddly. Soon you'll get to the bottom of things.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have a new idea that does not seem to work. Later a good friend shows you how it can be successful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Plan how to gain more assets. Confer with an influential person who can be of assistance to you here.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Look to one of influence in a distant place for assistance in gaining support for your activities.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Make arrangements with kin so that you have a firmer foundation at home. Invite some friend in who can help you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Contact friends who can introduce you to the right persons. Come to an understanding with business associates.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Go to higher-ups for ideas on how to be more efficient at your regular job. Be careful in motion today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You know how to go after your most cherished aims and can also be happy with your friends today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get your responsibilities handled so that you gain the approval of important family members.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Use tact in handling a partner who is apt to be overly emotional today. Take a little trip later.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Make sure you consider the cost of activities you have in mind. Be careful of one who might con you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your judgment is fine now. You also have a bigwig who can help you to gain your important goals.

Islamic banks formulate strategy

ISTANBUL (R) — Islamic banks meeting here this week decided on a strategy to mobilise the financial resources of savers and channel them to the development of the Islamic World.

"The responsibility and the burden of development should be taken by the people from below," Mr. Ahmad Al Naggar, secretary general of the International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB), told Reuters.

Islamic banks do not pay interest, in line with tenets of the Muslim religion, but instead give return on specific investments. The first such bank was established in 1963 in Egypt and the number now has reached 54.

More than 180 banking executives discussed the new development strategy for four days in Istanbul this week at the first general conference of Islamic banks organised by IAIB.

"We are still in the building process," Mr. Naggar said. "But this (Islamic banking) is the ideal way which guarantees justice and effectiveness."

The bankers decided that the financial resources of the Islamic community should be mobilised and channelled to the development of the Islamic World through the banks.

"It is the participation principle

... instead of regarding the poor people as a burden on the government they are a source of power and profit," Mr. Naggar said.

He said the new principle involves selling shares of development projects to the people through the Islamic banks. In Turkey, two Islamic banks are operating successfully and the government has also taken advantage of an increasing awareness of Islam by issuing profit-sharing certificates in publicly-owned infrastructure.

"The Islamic banks have to educate the people on how to save and invest and buy shares in the properties," Mr. Naggar said, adding that businessmen should also be educated to be partners with the people.

On cooperation among the Islamic banks, the conference decided to establish a fund to which the banks would contribute.

"This fund is to look after the implementation of projects by launching stocks for their financing," a conference communiqué said, adding that the banks would subscribe to these bonds and stocks.

Mr. Naggar said some Islamic banks are enjoying a considerable inflow of funds from Islamic countries.

"To put this money in big projects on participation principles, we must create a financial market to be able to mobilise the funds for development projects all over the Islamic World," he said.

The conference communiqué also urged the banks to create new Islamic financial instruments to activate an Islamic financial market.

These instruments include issuing mosharakah (partnership) bonds, issuing medium-term Islamic deposit bonds and investment bonds to finance a particular activity in agriculture, industry, property or another field, the communiqué said.

But Mr. Naggar sees the biggest obstacle to boosting Islamic banking as being a shortage of staff and leaders.

"If we have the personnel and clear vision of the objective of Islamic banks, any surplus funds in the banks could be invested and directed towards the economies of Islamic countries," he said.

To remedy this weakness, the bankers decided to cooperate in training personnel in existing training centres and financial institutions of other Islamic countries.

EC ministers
back new
Mediterranean
trade accord

LUXEMBOURG (R) — European Community (EC) ministers Tuesday gave their formal approval to a new trade accord with non-EC Mediterranean states, ending months of bickering between Community members, diplomats said.

The ministers' backing opens the way for the EC's executive commission to seek agreement for the accord from the 12 states affected by the trade package.

Diplomats said opposition within the EC to the new accord, mainly from Spain, had finally been lifted when it became clear the problem was causing the Community increasing embarrassment.

Diplomats said the EC had now gone as far as it could in making concessions and the Community expected to reach agreement on the accord in the next few weeks with the 12 Mediterranean states affected — Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, Syria, Egypt, Malta, Cyprus, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

The accord is designed to ensure that trade between the Mediterranean states and the EC does not suffer from Spain and Portugal's entry into the Community last Jan. 1.

The 12 countries have traditionally been able to export a wide range of products to the EC at specially low import duty rates, making their products cheaper than those from the Community's other third country suppliers.

The new accord will offer the Mediterranean states concessions providing for increased exports of products.

NEWS IN BRIEF

W. Germany lends Syria \$28.1 million

DAMASCUS (AP) — West Germany signed an agreement Tuesday granting Syria a \$55.9 million Deutschmark (\$28.1 million) soft loan, the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported. The agreement was signed by Syria's minister of planning, Mr. Sabah Banjaji, and West German Ambassador Herbert Woelkel. SANA said, it said the loan was "commodity aid for Syrian purchases" in West Germany of oil, gas, power and poultry equipment. The loan bears a 4.5 per cent interest with a 10-year grace period.

Turkey, Iran study Europe pipeline plan

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and Iran have signed a contract with British Gas Plc for the company to study the possibility for a pipeline to carry Iranian natural gas to Europe, a company spokesman said. The \$300,000 cost will be shared equally by the National Iranian Gas Corporation and Botas, the Turkish state-owned pipeline authority. The pipeline, which could cost \$11 to \$12 billion to build, would supply Turkey and connect with the European pipeline grid, the spokesman said.

Saudi Fund extends \$18m credit to Rabat

RABAT (R) — The Saudi Development Fund has lent Morocco 70 million Saudi rials (about \$18 million) to help finance a drinking water supply system for the city of Casablanca, the national news agency MAP said this week. The loan carries interest ranging from two to four per cent over 20 years with a five-year grace period, the agency said. The fund's contribution will cover 20 per cent of the total cost of piping water from the Umm Er Rebia riversouth of Casablanca. It brings to 733 million rials the total of financial assistance given to Morocco by the fund so far.

Seminar to review Arab planning process

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — The success of Arab development programmes will be reviewed by Arab planning ministers at a five-day seminar opening here Saturday. The meeting will focus on ways of improving the planning process and examine Arab experiments in the planning sector. Officials said the ministers would discuss research papers on development strategies, successes in attaining planning targets and measures to be adopted to improve future performance. The meeting will also examine planning experiments conducted in France, India, Hungary and a number of other non-Arab countries.

OPEC agrees to extend
curbs on oil production

GENEVA (R) — OPEC oil ministers have agreed to renew curbs on oil output until the end of the year in a bid to drive prices higher.

A conference of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) took 17 days to reach the agreement with several of the 13 members lodging competing demands to be allowed to sell more oil.

The ministers said in a communiqué issued early Wednesday that "minor adjustments" were made in an existing structure of production controls to accommodate such demands.

The ministers, who held the longest meeting in OPEC's 26-year history, will meet again on Dec. 11 in a renewed effort to force permanent quotas for each state.

OPEC President Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria told reporters the aim of the new accord was to drive up oil prices to between \$17 and \$18 per barrel by December, about 20 per cent above present levels.

A previous two-month accord, which expires on Oct. 31, boosted prices to around \$14 a barrel from less than \$9 in July. Prices plummeted earlier this year from levels around \$30.

The crash was provoked by an OPEC decision last December to fight an increasing number of non-OPEC producers for a "fair share" of the market.

That decision aggravated an already glutted market and prompted the price collapse.

The communiqué showed that OPEC members agreed to raise their present overall production limit by 200,000 barrels per day (b/d) to about 17 million b/d.

Oil analysts and traders following the conference said this should be enough to boost prices closer to \$20 a barrel by December, but noted the

ministers would then have to start from square one to forge a new accord.

The communiqué emphasised that the new pact "should in no way be construed as a permanent quota distribution among members."

The conference had been deadlocked by a demand from Gulf producer Kuwait to raise its 900,000 b/d quota by 90,000 b/d to compensate for past "sacrifices."

In the end, Kuwait settled for a rise of 60,000 b/d spread over November and December. Its two powerful Gulf allies, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), were the only states to receive no increases.

OPEC dictated its own terms in the 1970s, supplying non-communist industrial countries with almost two-thirds of their oil and driving up prices to more than \$40 a barrel.

But new supplies from emerging non-OPEC producers, such as Britain, Mexico and Norway, and energy conservation in industrial states pushed down OPEC's market share to about one-third.

OPEC efforts over the past two years to limit the group's production in order to slash market supplies and boost prices have failed because of cheating on the self-imposed production quotas.

With OPEC revenues crashing by about 50 per cent this year, to some \$60 to \$85 billion, each member has fought bitterly for the largest possible quota.

The Iranian-inspired interim agreement forged in August, OPEC's first unanimous accord in over a year, was made possible by excluding Iraq from the quota distributions.

This resolved a fierce feud over quotas between Iran and Iraq, both desperate for cash to fund their six-year Gulf war. Iraq, which has been producing about two million b/d, was excluded again from quotas assigned at this meeting.

The new total for the 12 states receiving quotas came to just over 15 million b/d. With Iraq's production this will keep the overall ceiling around 17 million b/d.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producer and most powerful member, has emphasised that this is the final extension to the interim pact and the next meeting must set fair and permanent quotas for each member.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told reporters this was the last time he would consent to letting Gulf war for Iraq be exempted from OPEC production controls.

"No, we will not repeat this position," he insisted.

Mr. Lukman had a warning at a news conference for non-OPEC producers. OPEC had taken "remedial action" to erase surpluses from the international market but non-members of the group had to help in future, he said.

Earlier reports said Mr. Lukman would confer with the oil minister of Norway soon.

"We do not expect that OPEC market share should continue to be reduced on an indefinite basis," Mr. Lukman said.

Reacting to the agreement, Far East oil industry sources said Wednesday that it is unlikely to sustain crude-oil prices at the targeted \$17 to \$19 dollars per barrel this year.

The benchmark Middle Eastern crude, Dubai, could hit \$15 immediately but will settle back nearer the current \$14 level when the market calms down, they said.

Britain to privatise B.A. in early '87

LONDON (R) — The British government said Tuesday it would sell the national airline British Airways (B.A.) to the public early next year in the latest stage of its denationalisation programme.

Transport Secretary John Moore told a news conference the sale, which is expected to fetch around £1 billion (\$1.44 billion), would free the company from the constraints of government control and enable employees, customers and the public to take a stake in its future.

"The flotation will provide a further major opportunity to strengthen the basis of individual share ownership in this country," he said, adding that the sale would be preceded by a big publicity drive.

The campaign kicked off Monday when financial journalists were entertained at a lavish briefing aboard Concorde, the company's supersonic aircraft.

The flotation decision was twice delayed this year by difficulties in negotiating pacts with the United

States on capacity on key trans-Atlantic routes and a protracted legal dispute with entrepreneur Sir Freddie Laker arising from the 1982 collapse of his airline, which offered cut-price flights.

With both these problems resolved, Mr. Moore said the way was clear for the airline to go public. He said about 20 per cent of the company's shares would be allocated to foreign investors.

B.A. recorded pre-tax profits of £183 million (\$263.5 million) for the year ending March 31, but said fears of terrorist attacks had damaged business in the first three months of this year.

It launched a vigorous public relations effort to attract North American customers and officials said Tuesday business had picked up over the summer months.

Mr. Moore said this year's downturn was no more than a "hump on the graph" and the government believed the company was fundamentally strong.

He said the government would ensure that no single individual or organisation amassed a holding of 15 per cent or more in the company.

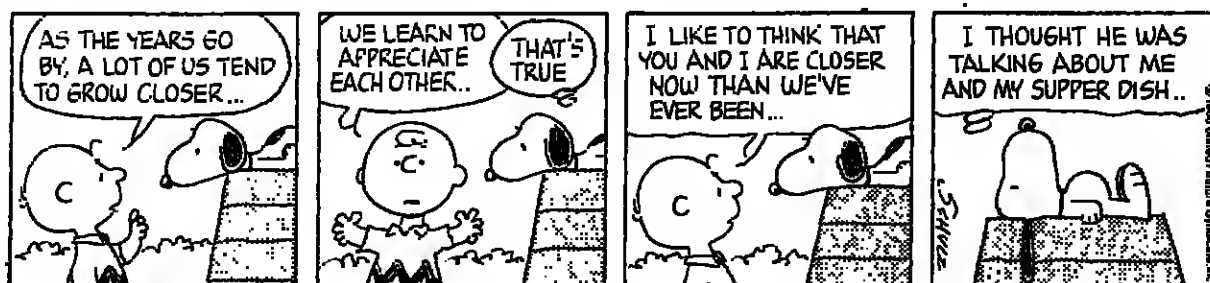
B.A. was designated as one of the first companies Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government aimed to denationalise when it took office in 1979, but a financial crisis in the early 1980s postponed the sale.

The need to remove state control from large sections of the British economy has been a major theme running through Mrs. Thatcher's period of office.

The programme will reach a climax next month with the sale of British Gas, which is expected to fetch around £5 billion (\$7.2 billion) in the largest public flotation ever recorded.

B.A. chief executive, Mr. Colin Marshall, said the company would begin presentations to financial institutions, while efforts would be made to entice as many small investors as possible.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



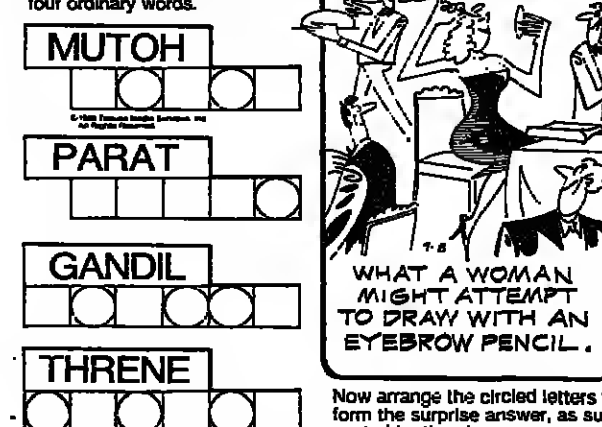
THE BETTER HALF



"Take a vacation, Stanley. Get out of the rat race for a few days!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: QUAKE TAROY MUSCLE PAGODA
Answer: A blaze can be very hot, especially when it's this—COAL!

East and West formally adopt Stockholm accord

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Nearly three years of tough negotiation ended Monday when diplomats at the Stockholm disarmament talks approved the first major East-West arms control agreement in seven years.

The closing ceremony of the conference, delayed three days due to frantic last-minute negotiations, started with a private plenary session during which the final document was officially adopted, diplomats said.

The agreement comes into force on Jan. 1 next year. The Stockholm document commits the governments of the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union and all other European countries except Albania to give 42-day advance warning of exercises involving more than 13,000 soldiers.

Other confidence-building measures include systems of inspection, observation and verification of manoeuvres by foreign military experts and agreement to swap calendars of war games each year.

The last details of the agreement slotted into place Sunday when Soviet delegation head Oleg Grinevsky consulted Moscow after a session of hard bargaining between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact alliance, diplomats said.

A smiling Grinevsky then told reporters: "You can say there is an agreement."

Late Sunday night he told a news conference that "common reason and political realism" had prevailed.

The ambassador said he was satisfied with the agreement, but made a harsh comment about U.S. commitment to the

conference. "The United States was a partner, but my belief is that the main driving force for the talks was the European members of NATO. It was the European will to have an agreement," he said.

He then called for a second phase of the Stockholm process, itself an offshoot of the 1975 Helsinki accords.

Shortly after Mr. Grinevsky's good-humoured news conference, four NATO delegation heads gave their version of events.

U.S. chief negotiator Robert Barry said members of the alliance had stuck together for what they wanted — "if we hadn't, the outcome would not have been nearly as favourable."

He said he was disappointed that a formula had not been worked out in Stockholm for the exchange of more detailed military information between East and West.

Mr. Barry declined to comment on the effect the Stockholm agreement would have on prospects for a superpower summit or for general U.S.-Soviet relations.

The agreement in Stockholm will be evaluated and reviewed at a meeting starting Tuesday in Vienna. The document is scheduled to be ratified by the 35 nations before the end of the year, when it is scheduled to take effect.

It contains six main chapters. They include:

— A reaffirmation of the participating nations' pledge to

refrain from the threat or use of force.

— Adoption of prior notification and general information at least 42 days in advance of military activities involving at least 13,000 troops or 300 tanks.

— Observation of military activities exceeding 17,000 troops or in amphibious or paratroop landings, above 5,000 troops.

— The exchange of annual calendars by each nation of those military activities subject to prior notification.

— Constraining provisions on major military activities such as manoeuvres involving more than 40,000 troops.

— Implementation of on-site inspection by airborne or ground teams. A nation must accept up to three such inspections annually on request by other signatories.

The measures will cover Europe "from the Atlantic to the Urals," opening up large parts of the Soviet Union for inspection. A first annual calendar for activities above 40,000 troops in 1988 is to be exchanged next Dec. 15.

West Germany Monday gave a warm welcome to the Stockholm disarmament accord and said it could help boost prospects for a U.S.-Soviet summit.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said the accord showed "that substantial arms control agreements between East and West can be achieved."

He said the West German government hoped the accord would provide an impetus for continuing East-West negotiations on troop reductions in Europe and a chemical weapons ban as well as for U.S.-Soviet arms control talks in Geneva.

Bonn confirms secret fund

BONN (Agencies) — The West German Foreign Ministry confirmed Monday that it was operating a secret fund but refused to say how the money was spent.

A ministry spokesman said 7.7 million marks (\$3.8 million) had been earmarked for the fund this year under the budget heading "secret expenditure."

He declined to comment directly on a report in the news magazine Der Spiegel that the fund was mostly used to support pro-Western Third World political parties and politicians.

"The money can only be used sensibly if absolute confidentiality is maintained," the spokesman said in response to queries.

He said the fund had existed for decades and had long been the subject of speculation. "The truth content of the speculation has not increased with repetition," he added.

Der Spiegel said beneficiaries of the fund had included President Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador and the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance Party in Namibia (South West Africa).

In a report attributed only to "insiders," Der Spiegel said the fund is beyond parliamentary control and receipts are shredded to ensure diplomatic discretion. The fund gets 7.7 million marks (\$3.8 million) from the budget annually, it said.

A list of future recipients includes Gatscha Bhebeze, the moderate leader of the Zulu tribe in South Africa, said the magazine.

Der Spiegel said money is sometimes forwarded to African or Latin American political figures specifically to back their candidacy in an election, or to persuade them not to run.

Der Spiegel said the fund also is used to support the politically persecuted or foreign diplomats who have been "cashiered" for political reasons.

The magazine said the fund's accounts are checked once a year by the director of the Federal Auditing Agency.

Colonel surrenders to face new trial in Aquino case

MANILA (R) — An army colonel wanted in connection with the murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino surrendered at a military camp Monday, a court official said.

Col. Vicente Tigas was one of 26 men, including former Armed Forces Chief Fabian Ver, acquitted in December of charges of involvement in the 1983 killing of the husband of President Corason Aquino.

The supreme court has ordered a fresh trial for the 26. All but Gen. Ver and another officer, who are both abroad, are now under detention or have posted bail.

Gen. Ver fled to Hawaii with Marcos in February when Corason Aquino took office after a civilian-backed military revolt.

Military officials said they had also received reports the guerrillas planned to attack paramilitary camps in the area.

Rebel posters appeared on the streets of Baticaloa telling residents they would be killed if they defied the protest and travelled in cars or motor cycles.

"Militants are defying types of bicycles ridden by government officials and others going to work and warning them to stay at home and observe the protest," one resident told Reuters.

"Shopkeepers have been told their shops would be set on fire if they are open."

Sri Lankan rebels set off bombs, order people off streets

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas set off bombs in the eastern Sri Lankan town of Batticaloa Monday to warn people off the streets in a protest against alleged killings of civilians by security forces, residents said.

No casualties or damage were reported from the explosions.

The rebels warned local people to stay indoors and told shopkeepers to close their businesses.

The guerrillas allege civilians were killed by government forces after a car bomb injured police commandos in the city last week.

The government has denied the charge, saying nine people were killed in crossfire during a gunbattle between police and rebels following the attack.

Batticaloa, 240 kilometres from Colombo, has been torn by eight days of fighting between police commandos and the guerrillas, who are demanding a separate state in northern and eastern Sri Lanka for the country's minority Tamil community.

An overnight curfew, imposed after the car bombing, was reimposed on the town at noon Monday after being lifted for a few hours Monday morning to enable residents to buy essentials.

Military officials said they had also received reports the guerrillas planned to attack paramilitary camps in the area.

Rebel posters appeared on the streets of Batticaloa telling residents they would be killed if they defied the protest and travelled in cars or motor cycles.

"Militants are defying types of bicycles ridden by government officials and others going to work and warning them to stay at home and observe the protest," one resident told Reuters.

"Shopkeepers have been told their shops would be set on fire if they are open."

Fiji reshuffles cabinet

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — Prime Minister Sir Ratu Kamiseva Mara took over the foreign ministry portfolio in a cabinet reshuffle the government announced on Monday.

The government said in a statement that Mara would assume the foreign affairs duties on Tuesday, replacing veteran politician Senese Sikivou who is retiring.

In other changes, Minister without portfolio Felipe Bole will take over as education minister from Dr. Ahmad Ali, who was appointed to the new post of minister for information.

Bole had been a permanent secretary for education and has served as ambassador to the United Nations and director of the Pacific Islands development programme in Hawaii. He was elected to parliament last year.

15 killed in S. African tribal fight

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Rival black factions of the Zulu tribe battled with guns in remote hills of Natal province, killing 15 fighters, police said Monday.

Police spokesman Capt. Pieter Kitching said the fighting occurred Saturday at Emamatolo, a small inland village in the Greytown district north of Durban.

The fighting, apparently stemming from a year-old conflict between the Vuma and Menyeswayo factions, flared when one man from the Vuma group was gunned down, said Kitching, police spokesman for the Natal interior based in the capital, Pietermaritzburg.

The Vuma then raised a band of fighters and attacked the Menyeswayo, and 14 more people were killed, he said. Several houses and cars also were burned down in the mountainous area.

The South African Press Association (SAPA) said the battle occurred at the farm of Sipho Mkhunu, a well-known singer and guitarist who formerly worked with white singer Johnny Clegg in the top band Juluka.

Mkhunu, who left the Johannesburg music scene to return to rural Zululand, was believed to have gone into hiding several months ago after previous factional clashes in the area, SAPA said.

Such fighting occurs periodically in Natal between rival

factions of the six-million-strong Zulu tribe. The origins of the enmity are often obscure, sometimes going back for generations.

Factional fighting is not considered part of anti-apartheid unrest and spillover violence that has wracked urban townships for more than two years, leaving more than 2,100 dead by unofficial counts.

The government Bureau for Information said in its daily unrest summary that Sunday was "exceptionally quiet," with fewer than 10 incidents of violence reported around the country.

In the only fatality, a 26-year-old black man, Super Baloyi, was attacked by a group of blacks and his body set alight in Soweto, Johannesburg's black township. Three other incidents also were reported in Soweto, the bureau said.

Soweto police, in a summary of weekend crime, reported two black men living in hostels for migrant workers were shot dead in separate incidents. Neither murder, among nine over the weekend in the township, was considered unrest-related.

However, Soweto residents have reported a series of clashes in recent days between militant neighbourhood youths and conservative hostel dwellers.

It has become harder over the past two years of violence to distinguish between politically related violence and non-political

crime. Both police and residents say thugs have taken advantage of the turmoil to stage assaults, car thefts and other crimes in the guise of political activism.

Weekend newspapers reported that the diversion of police from regular investigative work to riot duty had contributed to an increase in regular crime, prompting a sharp climb in insurance rates.

Meanwhile, the nation's mining industry has accused leaders of the largest black union of "cynical disregard for the interests of their members" by calling for sanctions against South Africa.

Meanwhile, the owners of a mine where 177 men were killed from flames in an underground fire last week held a memorial service at Kinross Gold Mine for the victims.

The Chamber of Mines, the industry association, said Sunday night that international sanctions endorsed by union leaders could have devastating impact on employment for 600,000 black miners.

Union spokesman Marcel Golding was quoted as replying that "international economic pressure" against South Africa was a peaceful way of pressuring the government to abandon apartheid.

He said race segregation policies were the root of the crisis, and once removed there would be no need for sanctions, according to SAPA.

NBC wins big in 38th Emmy Awards

PASADENA, California (AP) — Golden Girls led NBC's domination of the 38th Emmy Awards while CBS' Cagney and Lacey shut out ABC's Moonlighting, which had more nominations than any other show.

Cagney and Lacey won Best Drama Series for the second straight year and Sharon Gless beat out co-star Tyne Daly, a three-time winner, for best actress.

NBC took 19 of the 31 awards, CBS took 10 and PBS and ABC had one each.

Betty White of NBC's Golden Girls won as Best Actress in a comedy series and the show won for Best Comedy, and Michael J. Fox of NBC's Family Ties won for Best Actor.

Saying she shared her award with her co-stars, Miss White said, "we want to thank the network for taking a chance on four old broads — uh, ladies."

Rhea Perlman, the acidic barmaid Carla in Cheers, and John Larroquette, the obnoxious prosecutor of Night Court, collected Emmys again as supporting comedy series performers. It was the second year

running for Larroquette and the third for Ms. Perlman.

Mario Thomas won as Best Actress in a special or miniseries for Nobody's Child and Dustin Hoffman was Best Actor for Death of a Salesman, both on CBS. Love Is Never Silent, a "Hallmark Hall of Fame" presentation on NBC, was honoured as Best Special and NBC's Peter the Great was Best Miniseries.

"This was part of my dream," said the tearful Miss Gless as she held the statuette high above her head at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

Ms. Gless plays Christine Cagney, the New York Police Department detective partner of Lacey in the CBS series. For the past three years, Ms. Daly won the Emmy in the same category for her role as Mary Beth Lacey.

Ms. Daly's husband, Georg Stanford Brown, won for Best Direction on Cagney and Lacey, and John Karlen, who plays her husband Harvey on the series, won for Best Supporting Actor in a drama series.

John Lithgow, who won as Best Guest Performer for the Doll

segment of NBC's Amazing Stories, commented breathlessly: "I never win anything."

For the second year, William Daniels, the dour Dr. Mark Craig of NBC's St. Elsewhere, was honoured as outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series, and his wife, Bonnie Bartlett, was honoured as Best Supporting Actress in a dramatic series for her work on the same show.

Lucille Ball, whose new series debuted the night before on ABC, drew a standing ovation when she came out to present the Governor's Award to another television pioneer, Red Skelton.

NBC started the night with a record 148 nominations, followed by CBS with 90, ABC with 50, Public Broadcasting Service 31 and four nominations for syndicated programmes. It was the fifth straight year that NBC led in nominations.

Moonlighting had 16 Emmy nominations, but now only a technical award for editing which was announced two weeks ago. NBC won 15 of the technical Emmys, followed by CBS with 12, PBS with 10 and ABC with five.

'Row over Waldheim's past will disappear'

NEW YORK (R) — Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky says the controversy over President Kurt Waldheim's alleged Nazi past will disappear because it was fuelled earlier this year from abroad, Newsweek has reported.

According to the news magazine, asked how much damage the Waldheim controversy had done to Austria's image, Mr. Vranitzky said in a Vienna interview: "If there have been or still are unpleasant undertones, it is the intention of all Austrians in positions of responsibility to try to get rid of them."

"But I would say a campaign that was influenced from abroad, as this one was, tends to adopt a

rhetoric of its own that disappears after the campaign."

Dr. Waldheim, a former U.N. secretary general, was elected president in June after a bitter campaign in which the New York-based World Jewish Congress and several American newspapers alleged he had been part of a German army command intelligence unit in the Balkans during World War II.

Dr. Waldheim was maintaining a positive attitude towards the measures the Austrian government was taking to correct any negative impression about Austria, Vranitzky said.

Austrians were well advised to show a positive attitude towards Jews at home and abroad and "we

will do whatever we can to give the Jewish people the confidence and conviction that we mean this seriously," he was quoted as saying.

In a commentary on the interview, Newsweek said Mr. Vranitzky's break with the Freedom Party, whose hardliners included many former Nazis, was a significant attempt to refurbish Austria's image.

But it added: "Waldheim himself has still not made any official gesture of reconciliation to the Jewish community, though aides claim he has met with some Jews privately."

"Relations with Israel remain strained."

NASA reportedly had shuttle flaw solution for five years

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A solution to the problem of space shuttle booster seals that caused last January's Challenger explosion was conceived in 1981 and was being applied by the U.S. space agency to all shuttles, the New York Times said Monday.

The newspaper said it found in an investigation that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) had a "longstanding worry about the seals on the shuttle and application of an innovative remedy to generations of booster rockets."

During 1977 testing by NASA the pressures from launching were found to force the walls of the booster to bulge.

The bulging caused rotation at the booster's tongue and groove joints, and gaps opened. To close the gaps, which could permit leakage of burning gases, two rubber rings were inserted in each joint.

The rings were later found to erode somewhat from the superheated gases, the paper said. The seals needed to be redesigned and immobilised.

"The key element of the redesign was invented in 1981 to lock seals tightly in place by latching down an element of the joint," the newspaper said. "This capture feature was applied to the design of booster rockets in 1982 and again in 1983."

But for some time, it said, there was disagreement among specialists that the capture feature, an invention of Frederick

Policelli of Hercules Inc, was the best solution.

Nonetheless, "a rich harvest of data had been gathered, starting in late 1984, on the effectiveness of the capture feature," the Times said.

Less than two weeks before the Jan. 28 explosion of Challenger, a meeting of government and non-government space engineers learned from a briefing paper that steel casings with the capture feature, ordered in July, 1985, "were due for delivery by February, 1987," the Times said.

It added that Ronald Kist, a lawyer representing the widow of one of the seven astronauts killed in the accident, said: "The fact that the space agency applied the 'solution' as early as 1982 and again in 1985 will affect litigation over the Challenger disaster."

"Why fix the booster if it wasn't broken?" It makes the fact that they forced this launch all the more reprehensible."

Meanwhile the U.S. space agency may release a curtailed flight schedule for the space shuttle this week, and it probably will trigger lawsuits, the agency's chief says.

The schedule will include about 19 shuttle launches in the first three years following the resumption of operations, probably in early 1988, said James C. Fletcher, who heads NASA.

"I don't think anybody is going to be satisfied," Mr. Fletcher said. "We will not be allowed to fly very many commercial missions," such as those to place privately owned

satellites in orbit.

That means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration won't be able to meet all its contractual obligations, probably spurring those companies to sue the agency, he said.

"If we break contracts, we will have liability, and we will undoubtedly be sued," he said. "Some people are going to be unhappy."

Mr. Fletcher discussed the new flight schedule Saturday during an aerospace seminar sponsored by the Los Angeles Press Club and the Aviation-Space Writers Association.

NASA was planning monthly shuttle flights when Challenger exploded after liftoff from Kennedy Space centre in Florida killing all seven crew members and leading to a suspension of all shuttle flights.

Mr. Fletcher said the new flight manifest may be released by the end of the week. Its completion was delayed by disputes among federal government officials over the number of commercial satellite launch contracts that should be honoured, he said.

Last month, President Ronald Reagan decided that the shuttle will not compete for new commercial satellite launch contracts, and that such payloads should be put in orbit by private, expendable rockets.

However, presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said at the time that 15 of the 44 commercial payloads NASA has

contracted for will find room on the shuttle.

Gen. Robert T. Herres, who heads the Air Force Space Command, said the U.S. space programme is "in poor shape compared with the Soviet Union's, which has completed 60 space flights since Challenger exploded."

"They are capable of about 100 space launches per year," he said. Mr. Fletcher said he wasn't able to offer much encouragement when he met Friday with scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. Many of the scientists have spent years developing space missions that were to be launched by the shuttle.

He said it may be impossible to use the shuttle to launch the Galileo Mission to Jupiter because the space probe has a radioactive power source.

The Challenger tragedy raised concern that payloads with radioactive power supplies could contaminate the ground if they were destroyed in another such explosion.

Alternative launch vehicles are hard to find, and although there's been discussion of cancelling the Galileo Mission, Mr. Fletcher said he expects to see it fly eventually.

He said launching the hubble space telescope, to be placed in orbit above the distortion of the Earth's atmosphere, has a high priority among other scientific missions within NASA. The telescope was to have been launched this fall.

Thai beauty pageant turns ugly

BANGKOK (R) — The "Miss Thailand World '86" beauty pageant came to an ugly end when unhappy runners-up stole the winner's tiara and crowned their own queen. As the orchestra struck up the winner's theme, the pouting also-rans tried to rip off Saeng-Ravi Asavarak's victory sash before a stunned audience of 2,000 people at a luxury hotel.

They snatched her tiara and placed it on sobbing first runner-up Duangduan Jithaisong, but she wanted no part of the mutiny. Live television coverage of the pageant ended abruptly as the fracas broke out. Saeng-Ravi, 22, crownless and sash askew, retained her poise and grace and beamed smiles at the crowd throughout the commotion. "I didn't think this was going to happen because everyone had been so nice and friendly," she told reporters later. She denied charges by other competitors that she had had a nose job, refused to use the sponsor's cosmetics and wore false eyelashes.

The Chamber of Mines, the industry association, said Sunday night that international sanctions endorsed by union leaders could have devastating impact on employment for 600,000 black miners.

Union spokesman Marcel Golding was quoted as replying that "international economic pressure" against South Africa was a peaceful way of pressuring the government to abandon apartheid.

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Party leader sacked for sexual blackmail

PEKING (R) — A Communist Party boss in central China has been dismissed and arrested for using his position to blackmail women into having sex with him, an official newspaper said Monday. The China Law news said Wang Benxuan, party chief of Yuanbaoshou county in Hunan province, had been arrested on charges of having illicit sexual relations in return for jobs, promotions and party membership. He was charged with "taking liberties with" 24 women.

Party boss in central China has been dismissed and arrested for using his position to blackmail women into having sex with him, an official newspaper said Monday. The China Law news said Wang Benxuan, party chief of Yuanbaoshou county in Hunan province, had been arrested on charges of having illicit sexual relations in return for jobs, promotions and party membership. He was charged with "taking liberties with" 24 women.

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